



The Storm Watch

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Space Coast Wins Huge at 2014 FYSA AGM

The Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA) held their 2014 awards banquet on Saturday, August 02 at the Annual General Meeting in Lake Buena Vista, FL. Space Coast United Soccer earned an astounding five awards of the nine state-wide categories for which they were entered. The association has fourteen award categories in all. Space Coast's award count well surpassed any other single club in the state of Florida, reflecting well on the excellence of our youth soccer programming and the efforts of our staff and volunteers.

Space Coast United was recognized as the FYSA TOPSoccer Club of the Year for the high quality and consistent growth of the club's efforts to provide mentally and physically handicapped youth with the opportunity to play the sport. Program Leader, Kevin Neighbor, accepted the award on behalf of the club.

The success of the club's TOPSoccer program was also acknowledged by Ryan Zinone's honor as Florida's TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year.



Ryan, a recent graduate of Melbourne Central Catholic High School, wrote poignantly about his experience as a mentor at Space Coast United in his college application essay that helped earn him a place at Notre Dame University this fall.

(Continued Page 3)

The Boys of Summer: U17 Squad Goes National

For the first time in Space Coast United history, the club reached the semifinals of the National Premier League Finals. The U17 boys competed in Greensboro, N.C. in July with a fantastic performance. They opened the tournament with a victory over the Rio Rapids (NM) 1-0 before later losing to Santa Monica (CA) United 3-2. The team responded the next day with a convincing win over Tynecastle (WA) 5-0 to secure a spot in the semifinals.

In the semifinal match, Space Coast played the No. 3 nationally ranked team Placer United, and lead them 1-0 into the last 10 minutes of the game before two quick successive goals by PU gave them the win. Placer United would go on to win the national finals. Despite the loss, the U17 boys had a groundbreaking performance at the NPL finals, reaching the furthest of any Space Coast team to date as well as dethroning several nationally ranked teams to enter the semifinals. **(Continued Page 5)**



U14 Girls and U16 Boys: Hurricane Classic Champs



The middle of August brings predictably hot and humid weather to Central Florida, as well as the torrential storms that have wreaked havoc on pre-season practice schedules. The Hurricane Classic, held August 15-16 couldn't escape the inevitable. Saturday afternoon's games were soggy, and in some cases, shortened substantially by weather holds causing significant game delays. The tournament was not a complete washout though, and two Space Coast United teams have silverware to show for their effort.

Coach Teresa Brantley's U14 Girls took home the top trophy with four consecutive clean sheets. In the group stage, they beat Cape Coral 3-0, Tampa Bay United 2-0, and Brevard Soccer Alliance 3-0. They went on to shut out Cape Coral 2-0 in the Final.

Coach James Phillips' U16 Boys got off to a cracking start for the 2014-15 competitive year as well. They beat Brevard Soccer Alliance 2-0, South Brevard by a stunning 6-1, and Brevard Soccer Alliance North 2-0 in the group stage to earn a place in the Final. They earned their championship title with a 2-1 win over Port St. John.

Let's "lift the silverware" early and often!



If you're attacking,
you don't get as tired
as when you're
chasing."

~ Kyle Rote, Jr. (Striker with 5 caps for U.S. National Team)

Summer Camps Make a Big Splash

The club hosted three weeks of camp during July, with one session in Indian Harbour Beach and the other two at Viera Regional Park. A whopping 230 kids attended our camps, and based upon the pictures posted to [Facebook](#), had a blast. Many still wonder what those losing bets were all about. The final session was also a team camp for our Academy players to provide some pre-season development. The concepts delivered at the camp will form the basis of what they will work on this coming year.



Anyone wondering about the quality of our camp programming need only ask Jack Mariani (right). He has been coming to our camp for four years from Dubai and now Sao Paula where he lives with his family. Jack tried other camps before ours, but continues to return because he really likes the coaching staff. He was attracted by our ability to cater to a variety of ages and skills and feels he learns new things each year. We certainly look forward to having Jack back next year!

Our next camp opportunity in December will focus on Striking and Finishing.



Flat Rob and Flat Scott Travel the Globe



Susan Eaton, member of Space Coast United's Communications Team, introduced a fun idea this summer that took the club by storm. If you have not had the opportunity to browse through the Flat Rob and Flat Scott photos on the club's [Facebook page](#), you should check it out. Our members traveled far and wide taking their coaching directors with them...in spirit and paper.

The project showed just how creative, adventurous, and dedicated our Space Coast community can be. We saw Flat Rob and Flat Scott in several countries on two continents. They wore a variety of bright colors and occasionally enjoyed custom made hats. They accompanied our members on family vacations and business trips, to soccer camps and beach getaways, and of course traveled with the U17 boys to their competitions. They could be spotted at sea level, high in the mountains, and soaring above the clouds. It was a great way for Space Coast members to stay in touch and have a little bit of fun on social media during the summer break.



Great idea Susan! A hearty thanks should also go to Scott Rooke for designing and promoting Flat Rob and Flat Scott.

FYSA Awards (cont.)

Coach Dean Flexton, Junior NPL Director of Coaching, won the FYSA Score Boys Competitive Coach of the Year. His development of the U12 Boys as their trainer and guidance of the U16 Boys as their head coach was rewarded with numerous tournament placements and wins throughout the 2013-14 year. Cheryl Roe's efforts on behalf of her daughters' recreational and competitive teams over the years, as well as her volunteerism with the club and promotion of youth soccer in our community, earned her the FYSA Publix Parent of the Year award. The FYSA Photo of the Year came from the Space Coast United Soccer Club as well. Michelle Shelton's touching photo of her son, Elliot, instantly captured the attention of the judges. At one point in the evening, when Michelle said she was from Space Coast United the table in front of ours was seen to be shaking their heads like "Space Coast again ?!?!"

Club President Jeff Leonard said, "I am really thankful and appreciative of all the club volunteers and coaches who have dedicated their time and effort to making Space Coast United Soccer Club one of the best clubs in the state. Special thanks to the five award recipients who were recognized by the Florida Youth Soccer Association for their exceptional efforts." Space Coast United is clearly committed to the development of the young athletes they serve at all ages and levels of play.

- Space Coast United is proud of all of our nominees:
- Coach Teresa Brantley for Girls' Competitive Coach of the Year
- Carol-Ann Zoonigan for Volunteer of the Year
- Shea Bolin for Co-ed Recreational Coach of the Year
- Kevin Neighbor for TOPSoccer Coach of the Year

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"Space Coast Again?!?!"



TOPSoccer at Space Coast: Jennifer Neighbor, Kevin Neighbor, Ryan Zinone

A Conversation with Award Winning Photographer Michelle Shelton



Interviewed by Liam Fuller

More than three hundred entries from across the state were submitted to the FYSA annual photo contest, but Space Coast United's very own Michelle Shelton won the coveted prize with the adorable photo of her son Elliot. We asked Michelle a few questions about her photography and involvement with Space Coast United Soccer.

How long have you been involved with the club?

Five years. Gabe (9), started in mini kickers and now plays U10 Academy. Elliot (4) has grown up on soccer fields. He did micro kickers, mini kickers and is playing U6 this year. My husband, Matt, helped coach YDP and now is a coach for the Academy. He has grown to love soccer so much he joined a men's league. (My daughter Sienna is not interested in playing, but has a "family" of soccer siblings she plays with on the touchlines).

What do you like most about Space Coast United?

I love the coaches and the trainers! They are always thinking about all of the kids and how to best develop them into great soccer players while creating a love of the game. Their dedication blows me away. They make Space Coast United so wonderful!

How did you get into photography and what do you believe it takes to produce great photos?

It all started because I love taking pictures of my kids. Over the years I have read books, watched tutorials, taken photography classes, and attended photography conferences. I love that there is always more to learn. I especially enjoy photographing my boys playing soccer because they love it so much. I think the best way to get great photos is to capture emotion. Whether it is joy, determination, concentration, or even defeat, emotion is what makes a photo stand out. I also really love my zoom lens for soccer. It lets you get close to the action!

How did it feel to have won over 300 entries?

I screamed when I got the email! I was so excited and very honored. Matt and I looked forward to the fun night out (without kids) at the awards banquet!

Is there anything else you would like to share with the members of SCUSC?

I am very proud to be a part of the SCUSC family. There is a strong feeling of community the club brings to all the families that play soccer here!

Thank you Michelle, we could not possibly hear higher praise than that.

Registration Now Open for the 2nd Annual Space Coast Cup

January 17-18, 2015

U17 Boys (continued from page 1)



When asked why he believed they were able to progress so far, Coach Armstrong emphasized the bonding the boys and their parents did both on and off the pitch. He said of the team, “This group of young men have become a team in every way imaginable, We out competed, out fought, and played our hearts out representing Space Coast United to the very last minute. I am very proud of the U17 boys.”

It was indeed a fabulous summer for the squad, defeating IMG Academy 4-1 to win the FYSA State Cup championship in May and move on to compete in the quarterfinals of the Region III tournament in Baton Rouge, LA in June. The team would like to thank everyone who helped support them with their fundraising efforts and raised their spirits. It is great to know you have a club excited about each and every team’s accomplishments.

Hello to all Space Coast United Soccer Club Parents and Players.

As the season begins, I pray you all enjoy the blessings that are your children as they learn to play the great game of soccer aka futbol.

Please remember to bring plenty of water for your players and keep them bathed in sunscreen. Most of all, enjoy these precious moments and be your players’ biggest fans.

~ Jeff Leonard
SCUSC Board President

Message from DOC Scott Armstrong

It’s been a great summer with the U17 boys achieving fantastic results. (See story page 1) They represented Space Coast United extremely well. After tryouts at the end of May, our competitive teams regrouped and began training in mid-July ready to work hard. 90% of our teams participated in a preseason invitational August 2nd in Orlando and played very well despite the extreme heat.

We fielded five teams at the Hurricane Classic on August 15-16, another brutally hot weekend. Coach Brantley’s U14 Girls and Coach Phillips’ U16 Boys took home the championship trophy. (See story page 2) The U16 Girls attended their first FSPL weekend playing beating West Pines 1-0 and drawing with Coral Gables 0-0. These two teams tied for the league title last year. Our U18 Girls played Southeastern College and played them to a 2-2 draw. I’m happy to announce that SCU player, Luca Campanini, was selected for the ID2 program in Orlando.

Although the weather has been very challenging since beginning practices, I am very happy with the start of the new season. I look forward to another exciting and successful year of Space Coast United competitive soccer.



Coach Flexton’s U13 Boys at the preseason friendly against Florida Kraze Krush, August 02.



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Established in 1984, Space Coast United Soccer Club is a non-profit run by volunteers dedicated to families who wish to enjoy the sport of soccer and to provide opportunities to play at all levels from ages three to eighteen with the highest quality of programs available in the State of Florida. Our efforts and energies are directed to the following objectives:

- We strive to develop players at all levels of play – recreational and competitive – by building and improving their skills, confidence, fitness, initiative and a sense of teamwork.
- We are committed to developing coaches and referees to the highest level through a quality instructional, licensing and mentoring program.
- We aim to ensure all of our players' personal goals are met whether they be enjoying recreational soccer, playing on an elite or premier competitive team, playing on your high school team, playing in college, or on a U.S. National team someday.
- We promote and encourage high standards of sportsmanship and fair play and strive to ensure all players are doing it "For the love of the Game!"

YDP/Rec Correspondents Wanted for Space Coast Communications Committee



Are you plugged in to the YDP, Mini/Microkicker, and/or Recreational programs?
Are you willing to reach out to coaches, team managers, and parents to keep current with events and program developments?

We would love to hear from you! We are looking for people who would like to contribute material to our social media efforts and club newsletter.

Please send an email introducing yourself to mediadirector@spacecoastsoccer.org.
Tell us how you can help keep our members informed.

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Youth Soccer Websites

[Florida Youth Soccer Association](#)

[National Premier Leagues](#)

[US Youth Soccer](#)

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