



The Storm Watch

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- Director of Coaching Assistant: Bev Gibbs



Soaked Fields Challenge Teams

Beaches and tennis courts played the part of soccer fields during parts of September as Space Coast United coaches, trainers and players adapted to reduce the amount of practices and game time lost to downpours and thunderstorms that occurred almost daily at the Viera, Wickham Park and Crespino fields.

Melbourne received more than five inches of rain so far in September, according to the National Weather Service. While afternoon rain is a fact of life for any Florida summer, this year's amount is half an inch less than recorded to this point in 2014. The main challenge was that the rain came at the times when the players were most likely to be on the field. With games coming up quickly, coaches went out of their way to find alternatives.

Some players headed to the beach for weekend practices shooting on goal while running through the sand. Others tuned up their touches with soccer tennis played on - where else? - the relatively dry tennis courts. A nearby church allowed a team to run practice inside during the storm season, as well.

Sometimes the change meant extra class time for players as coaches gathered the squads inside the building at the Viera fields for video and tactical sessions. Even though there was not a physical workout, the chance to take a more mental approach for a short while brought a change of pace to the practice rhythm.





Space Coast Racks Up Labor Day Wins

The U15 Girls Travel Red team of Coach Mike Lords and the U15 Girls Travel White team of Coach Alyssa Esposito won their respective championships at the Disney Showcase Qualifier and Tampa Bay Labor Day Showcase tournaments during a holiday weekend that saw several other Space Coast squads climb high.

Lords' U18 Girls Travel team finished with a silver medal at the Disney tournament having reached the finals. Coach Cal Dixon's U16 Girls Travel team reached the finals in their division, also bringing home a silver medal. Coach Scott Armstrong's U17 Girls Travel team finished as semi-finalists in the Disney event. Coach Dean Flexton's U13 Boys Travel team won silver medals at Disney's Pre-Season Soccer Kickoff.

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Coach Dixon Drives Players Using Soccer Passion

Coach Cal Dixon recently joined Space Coast as head coach of the U16 Girls NPL and U13 Boys Select teams. He has an FA Coaching Badge and NSCAA Advanced National Goalkeeping License. As well as coaching for Space Coast United, Cal is the goalkeeper coach at Florida Tech and the assistant coach for the Merritt Island High School Girls' team.

Dixon credits Director of Coaching Scott Armstrong with convincing him to join Space Coast.

"His coaching credentials and records speak for themselves, but he also has a tremendous work ethic and everything he does is to make Space Coast United a better club," Dixon said. He also credits the organization as an environment conducive to growing and learning as a coach surrounded by colleagues who want the same thing.

Dixon said he wants his players to enjoy the game and have a passion for it. He tries to create a competitive environment where this becomes possible while still learning and developing to become not only better players, but also better role models. He wants his players to understand what it takes to be part of a team and not just an individual. He models good sportsmanship and expects the players to be humble in both victory and defeat.

His goals for the U16 Girls NPL team are to continue to improve on their previous records and in tournaments, State Cup, and the NPL league. More importantly, he wants to showcase their talents to as many college coaches as possible. His goals for the U13 Boys Select team is to continue their development as players and improve the tactical elements of their game as they play 11v11 for the first year. He also hopes to promote as many as possible to an NPL team.

Originally from England, contracted with Stoke City FC from 1997-2000, Dixon was naturalized an American citizen in July.

"I am still very proud to be an Englishman born and bred, but now I can honestly say I am extremely proud to be an American," Dixon said. "Since moving here 15 years ago I met my fantastic and beautiful wife Rebecca, was able to earn a free college degree thanks in part to the beautiful game of football, have made some great friends, and get to continue coaching the game that I love. I am eternally grateful and blessed for everything I have been able to achieve so far and look forward to what the future brings in this amazing country."

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Meet the New Treasurer: Lynn Spadaccini

The SCUSC board of directors named Lynn Spadaccini the new club treasurer following a vote. She will work closely with Brian Lundy, the former treasurer, during the next few months to ensure a smooth transition by the end of the year.

Spadaccini's family joined Space Coast United about seven years ago when her son, Jack, was in second grade. He also played basketball at the time, but has since chosen soccer as his sport and the family has been with the club ever since.

"As an educator, I have always considered parents as partners in educating children, and see them as an ally and an asset," Spadaccini said. "I see parents the same way when it comes to youth sports. Running Space Coast United takes a significant amount of work and our club has limited staff. I feel an obligation and responsibility to give back to this organization, because the organization has been great for Jack and for our family. So much more can be accomplished when parents pitch in to help."

Lynn and Dave Spadaccini have been Brevard county residents for more than 35 years. Dave has been a pharmacist with Walgreens for over 30 years and Lynn is an educator who has served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and district director for Brevard Public Schools. Their son, Jack, is on Coach Phillips' U15 Boys Select team.

The family attends Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, where Jack is active in EDGE. Lynn serves on the Board of the Children's Home Society and is currently working with United Way's Early Reading Success Committee.

Lynn began helping out at Space Coast United as the Select teams' registrar. A conversation with Scott Armstrong ultimately led to Lynn joining the Board of Directors in April 2015. She agreed that her career in education

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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!"

Infrastructure, Fundraising Tops goals for New Treasurer

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and experiences working with the Brevard County School board might prove helpful to SCU. So when the opportunity presented itself, she said, "yes!"

Lynn said the best thing about any organization is its people. She said her family has been blessed with great coaches over the years and involvement at Space Coat United has enabled them to meet many wonderful families.

"I have heard firsthand from Scott and Rob their player-centered philosophy," she said. "It is clear they want what is best for every player in our club. They know each player by name and know their families. That's impressive, given the size of Space Coast United. So, for me, it's always the people."

As with any organization, Lynn recognizes opportunities for improvement. Her goals for the club involve infrastructure, physical spaces, and fundraising.

"Space Coast has an incredible group of parents and community partnerships that can help us meet our program goals," Spadaccini said. "We need to find better ways to tap and utilize our people resources. Fundraising is always an ongoing conversation. Space Coast United has a great reputation and I believe we have a generous community. The club and our players would surely benefit if we could assemble a talented team of people with innovative actionable ideas for fundraising."

U.S. Women to Face Brazil Oct. 25 at Citrus Bowl

The U.S Women's National Team will play the second of a two-game set against Brazil on Sunday, Oct. 25, at the Orlando Citrus Bowl (2:30 p.m. ET on FOX Sports 1, FOX Sports Go). Tickets will be sold through ussoccer.com and by phone at 1-800-745-3000.

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Ages 4-11

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Recreational
Ages 13-18

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Youth Soccer Websites

[Florida Youth Soccer Association](#)

[National Premier Leagues](#)

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