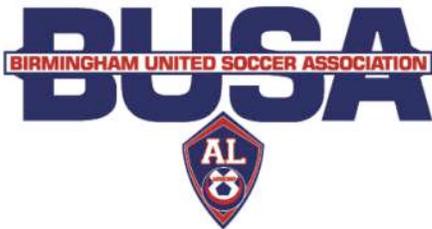




BIRMINGHAM UNITED SOCCER ASSOCIATION



February 2015



NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Many of you may not know that BUSA has started an inner city program partnered with Restoration Academy School in Fairfield. BUSA covers 100% of the program and is looking for a few more monetary donations to cover uniforms and gear for the players this spring. We are primed for about 65-70 players this spring and plan to expand our programs to other areas next fall. If you feel led or compelled to give to this awesome program please contact Andrew Brower
Andrew@birminghamunited.com

Happy New Year Members,

I hope that 2015 has gotten off to a good start and hopefully warmer weather will soon be around the corner. We are busy cranking up the 2015 Spring Season and also planning for our annual Red Diamond Vulcan Cup. We are grateful for Red Diamond and appreciate their loyal partnership to grow soccer in Alabama.

I wanted to hit a few highlights for some exciting things and programs at BUSA:

-We were proud hosts of Soccer Legends Mia Hamm, Kristine Lilly and Tish Hoch. What an awesome experience!

-Our Inner City Program at Restoration Academy kicks off this March with 65-70 kids playing soccer in Fairfield! Special Thanks to Firerock for their help in growing this program.

-Our 02 Elite Boys are off to a good start in the rugged Premier League East under Coach Kevin.

-02 Elite Girls were Champions of the V.I.T Spring event

-We are planning a huge viewing party at the fields this summer for the Women's World Cup in conjunction with Lemak Sports Medicine.

Lastly, I wanted to thank former Boys DOC, Jamie McClendon for his time at BUSA as his last day was January 31st as his wife was recently transferred to Charleston, SC. We will miss him and thank him for his leadership at BUSA.

See you on the fields,
Andrew Brower
Executive Director



Birmingham United Soccer Association



SUPPORT BUSA'S PLATINUM SPONSORS



BUSA

**Nike College I.D. Camp
May 16th and 17th, 2015**

BUSA will again be hosting its annual Nike College Men's and Women's I.D. Camp for any players that desire to play at the next level. We will have over 30 coaches on site from the Division I, II, III and NAIA levels. Camp is open to any High School age players but space is limited. Applications will be accepted on a first come basis. All players will receive a camp shirt with a unique number for easy identification by the college coaches.

-The Following is a partial list of colleges that have attended the past college camps:

University of Alabama-Huntsville	Spring Hill College
Belhaven University	Ogelthorpe University
UAB	Huntingdon College
Belmont University	University of Montevallo
Berry College	Belmont University
Birmingham Southern	Jacksonville State University
University of Mobile	University of Evansville
University of West Florida	University of West Florida
Clemson University	University of Mobile
University of Alabama	Auburn University
Samford University	

****Registrations, payments must be received no later than May 10th. Player Profiles need to be sent by May 10th also to be included in player profile book for college coaches.***

For additional information visit our website: www.birminghamunited.com

or contact Andrew Brower: Andrew@birminghamunited.com

Fall 2015 Tryout Information

- U9-U12 May 18th-May21st
- U13-Above May 30th-June 3rd
- ECNL Trials May 27th-May 29th

Tryout times and locations will be announced soon. For any additional information contact our Executive Director Andrew Brower:

andrew@birminghamunited.com

EVERY SEASON STARTS AT
DICK'S
SPORTING GOODS

EXCLUSIVE SHOP EVENT

DISCOUNT EXAMPLES

SOCCER BALL _____ \$20.00	SOCCER CLEATS _____ \$34.99	YOUTH SHORTS _____ \$12.00
20% DISCOUNT _____ -4.00	20% DISCOUNT _____ -5.00	20% DISCOUNT _____ -2.40
FINAL COST _____ \$16.00	FINAL COST _____ \$19.99	FINAL COST _____ \$9.60

**League Representatives will be on-hand from 2pm-6pm at the Birmingham store to answer any questions!

GEAR UP FOR YOUR UPCOMING SEASON!

Special discount valid ALL DAY March 1st in-store only!

Birmingham United Soccer Association SHOP DAY
Sunday, March 1st – Birmingham & Hoover Store
5201 Hwy. 280 S, Birmingham, AL 35242
4401 Creekside Ave., Hoover, AL 35244



22 BUSA PLAYERS SIGN THEIR NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT ON SIGNING DAY

Felicity Barnett- Birmingham Southern College

Gretchen Cagle- University of Tennessee

Maggie Clemmons- Vanderbilt University

Gaylynn Cooper- Mississippi College

Katie Denney- Illinois Wesleyan University

Laney Eden- Faulkner University

Sierra Franz- University of Tennessee at Martin

Tori Gann- University of Alabama

Leigh Haynes- Wake Forest University

Colleen Kennedy- University of Mobile

Sarah Grace Lindsay- Wofford College

Brooke McKee- Troy University

Ansley Neeley- University of Alabama

AJ Peacock- Auburn University

Virginia Poe- Furman University

Julie Reid- Mississippi College

Summer Senn- Trevecca Nazarene University

Margaret Swain- Furman University

Katie Taylor- University of Arkansas

Lexi Turner- University of Louisiana-Lafayette

Brittany Yoder- Troy University

Brock Belcher- Wofford College

SPRING JUNIOR ACADEMY

The BUSA Jr. Academy will provide a fun and challenging developmental bridge between our recreational program and our competitive U9 & U10 Program. The BUSA Jr. Academy will fine tune individual technique, create more confident technical players and use fast footwork and ball mastery to accelerate a greater soccer feel and understanding of the game.

-ALL SESSIONS BEGIN AT 5PM AND END AT 6:15PM

BUSA Academy Dates:

February - 25th

March - 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

April - 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

May - 6th (Academy Festival at Sportsblast)

North and South Playdates:

March 11th - at Sportsblast (5:00pm - 6:15pm)

April 15th - at Brookwood Forrest (5:00pm - 6:15pm)

GOALKEEPING FINISHING SCHEDULE

North:

Finishing - Monday 4:45 - 5:45

Goalkeeping - Monday 4:45 - 5:45

Goalkeeping - Wednesday 4:45 - 5:45 (U9-U12)

Wednesday 5:45 - 6:45 (U12-above)

South:

Finishing - Monday 5:30 - 6:30

Goalkeeping - Thursday 6:00 - 7:00

SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

March 30th-April 2nd - Spring Break Camp

May 12th-14th - Nike Pre Tryout Camp

June 23rd-25th - South Technical Camp

June 23rd-25th - North Technical Camp

July 21st-23rd - Goalkeeping/Finishing Camp

TBA - Back to School Camp North

TBA - Back to School Camp South

For more camp information visit our website
www.birminghamunited.com

Team First Soccer Academy

Over 150 players attended the Team First Soccer Academy run by Mia Hamm, Kristine Lilly, and Tish Hosh. Thank you to those who participated and the coaches who helped out!



FORMER BUSA 90 GREAT AND CURRENT SEATTLE REIGN PLAYER MERRITT MATHIAS Q & A

It was quite an honor to be called into the US Women's U-23 National Team this past January. How was that experience?

The US Women's Invitational Camp was a great experience. It allowed me the opportunity to play in a different environment than you normally get while in off-season. Meaning it involved team training and full-field games, rather than working in the more individualized regiment, you typically have when preparing for the up and coming season. The camp was also a great opportunity for me to showcase my talents to a group of coaches that have a lot of influence, when trying to get to the last and final level, which is the US Women's National Team.

Overall how would you rate your performance at camp?

I am my biggest critic when it comes to breaking down and evaluating my performance, but I would say I had a pretty good showing at camp. Are there parts of my game that I will continue to fine-tune and make better? Of course. You will never reach greatness without a lot of hard work and critique.

I had a great exit meeting with my coach and I truly believe my future in this sport is bright. This 2015 season will be the one that I really need to take full advantage of, in order, to get to where I want to be. Like most bright futures, it comes down to how much you are willing to sacrifice to reach your ultimate goal. And right now, I am ready to sacrifice a whole heck of a lot.

Describe your experience last season in the National Women's Soccer League and the success your team had last summer?

I think my most genuine response for this question would be.....I LOVED MY TEAM. The group of girls that I had around me for the past two years, truly made me love my experience in Kansas City. The chemistry on the team was like any other, and it was from that bond that we grew to be successful. I remember the first year; we came into the league, with everyone under-estimating our potential. Year two was a different story. I think that's what made winning this year so special, we made everyone acknowledge how great we were, as a whole. I do not think I could have written a more perfect ending to my time with FCKC.

What has been the biggest difference as a player and person from a successful college career at UNC and Texas A&M to a successful pro career?

My journey from collegiate to pro soccer has not been the easiest, and is far different from the one I envisioned when I was younger. This sounds like such a cliché, but my journey has changed the person and player that I am today. It is hard to pinpoint in what aspect I am most different, because I think in those years I grew so much. If one part of me stayed the same then it would have hindered my transformation enough that I would have had to make a conscience decision to change. I will say in the hard years, my love and appreciation for the game became much stronger. I would not say I ever took playing soccer for granted, but everything prior to that time came a little too easy. My success snowballed and landed me exactly where I thought I should be, which turned out to be the exact wrong place for me. I know now that when your love for something is tested, it is then you realize, just how much or how little of an importance it has in your life. I quickly learned that if I tried to imagine my life without soccer, it was not one I was ready to endure. So, I worked. I grew. I became what I wanted to be. Those two years fueled a fire. What I am trying to say is I have had a successful soccer career because I went through a situation that motivated me to be better.

What advice would you offer to aspiring youth players from your hometown of Birmingham, AL?

The best advice I can give to aspiring soccer players is to never become comfortable. Relying on what you did in the past will kill any potential future. If you continue to push yourself, you will become something great. You may not see immediate gratification, but the core values that you will acquire from fighting for what you believe is yours, will bring success. Hard work, dedication, and the mentality to never give up.....will never go un-noticed.