

January 2009

Dear Soccer Institute Family,

As we begin 2009, we wish to take this opportunity to thank you once again for joining the Soccer Institute at Superdome Sports. We appreciate the trust you've placed in us training your player.

We take great pride in what we do, and how we do it. One of the greatest joys we have is when former players return year after year to reconnect with us and tell us what a difference our training has made in their success, on and off the field.

We look forward to bringing you more exciting aspects of our program going forward and thank you for joining us.



### Soccer Institute Fees

All Soccer Institute fees must be current for your player to continue to attend Institute programs. Note that the second installment of \$500 is now due.

## Current and Future Stars Meet at Superdome Sports

### U-17 National Team Players discuss their career development and World Cup experience

On December 11, Superdome Sports and the Soccer Institute played host to some very special guests as US U-17 team members Amber Brooks, Jen Pettigrew and Lianne Maldonado spent some time with Institute members at a private seminar.

Fresh off their experience as Silver medalists at this Fall's FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in New Zealand, Jen and Amber gave young players a glimpse of what it's like to play internationally, against some of the world's greatest players at this age group.

"It was terrific to see the interaction between our current players and some of the older local players regarding their recent World Cup experience," said U-17 coach Kazbek Tambi. I think it's valuable for younger players to hear the concrete steps taken along the way to achieve the highest level."

Players noted the challenges of juggling academics and development of their soccer game and the importance of building time management skills. Amber noted that her travel schedule from her home in Pennsylvania to train with Kaz's program made it especially valuable for her to budget her time (she still manages to be an honors student). Also discussed were strategies for getting noticed at the local and regional level on the way to high level play.

Most of all, the players cited the value of repetitive practice, going beyond merely what was required for team play to develop their skills on their own.

Soccer Institute members can look forward to more seminars on a variety of subjects in the future.

## New Year's Eve Soccer a Blast Top Pro & College Players Return for "Alumni" Games

On Wednesday, Dec. 31 dozens of players returned to play with their former coaches and trainers in a star-studded afternoon of soccer, fun and friendship.

There was a family reunion feel in the air as players streamed into Superdome Sports, greeting each other and their former coaches and trainers with hugs and high-fives. Among those returning to be with long-time soccer friends were MLS players Edson Buddle of LA Galaxy, Alecko Eskandarian of Chivas, Jason Hernandez of San Jose Earthquakes; US Under 23 Co-Captains Yael Averbuch and Nikki Krzysik, numerous members of the US Under 17 team as well as All-American and top college players and other former pros.

On the field it became an extraordinary showcase of talent, high level play and more than a little good-natured ribbing. *Soccer Institute* members joined in the fun, playing small-sided games of their own while also taking time out to see some of the soccer firepower on display on adjacent fields.

"This is my favorite kind of event," said Institute Co-Director Yas Tambi. "Many of these players we've known for years and it's a double pleasure to watch them develop, and then have them come back to spend time with us and our current players. It's a family, really."

*Post Script:* Congratulations to Jason Hernandez who was just named to the full US National Team roster.

### • SOCCER INSTITUTE PHILOSOPHY •

The Superdome *Soccer Institute* is a training academy. Unlike a club team or premier team program, our goal is development of the individual player, not overall team performance.

- We look at tournaments and leagues as training opportunities. While Institute teams will play a better style of soccer, accumulating more trophies is not our goal nor measuring stick.
- Instead, our benchmark is developing better individual players with the skills and training to adapt to whatever soccer situation they may encounter as they progress through their career. This includes:
  - Moving the ball in space
  - Making quick, effective decisions
  - Equipping players to handle unfamiliar situations
  - Total player development that transcends specific "systems" or team philosophies, a critical element to high level soccer success.
- Similarly, there is less emphasis on specific position and more focus on creating diverse training situations that force players to make decisions quickly, correctly.

In short, with regular attendance and diligence, your child will emerge from the *Soccer Institute* a stronger, more confident individual player with the ultimate goal of success on and off the field.

## FAQs

Following are some frequently asked questions regarding the Institute with answers you may find helpful.

**Q: At a recent tournament, why did we have a different coach from our usual one?**

**A:** At the Institute, our priority is not tournament or league victories, but player development. While a coach or trainer who spends time with the same team is valuable, a fresh pair of eyes (and a different voice) can often enhance player development. At the Institute we are fortunate to have a deep bench of coaches who provide valuable and differing perspectives.

**Q: Besides my weekly practices, what other training opportunities do I have with the Institute? How do I register?**

**A:** Our specialized classes, such as Foot Skills and Finishing, are available to Institute members on a week-to-week basis. That is, players may attend a specialty class, subject to availability, by providing at least 24 hours notice prior to each class they attend. This must be done each week to ensure adequate space and staffing. Players should provide Superdome staff with their name and *Soccer Institute* team age group.

**Q: What is our summer travel schedule?**

**A:** Again, tournament trophies are not a priority for a true academy-type program. Instead, we will supplement current training with summer events that hone skills and provide productive playing opportunities. This includes events that we will host at Superdome Sports. While weekend tournament travel has become the norm, it is not the only way to build skill. We also are mindful of the cost, financial and time-wise, of extensive summer soccer travel and are making a conscious effort to minimize that burden while maximizing player development.

**Q: Erol says he was a better player than Yasar — is that true?**

**A:** Unfortunately, there are no game films available to provide direct evidence one way or the other. Similarly, we have been unable to obtain sworn testimony from anyone and Yas simply stated, "No comment." The debate rages on.



**THE SOCCER INSTITUTE**  
Premier Player Development

**An elite soccer training academy founded in the Latin/Continental European school of soccer which focuses on creating great individual players.**

***Only at Superdome Sports!***

The *Soccer Institute* places a premium on creativity and fast decision-making. With quick ball movement, agility, and superior ball mastery. In contrast to the tradition-bound academies of soccer that value a mere “kick and chase” style, the Institute promotes a game where each player is expected to have direct impact on the game itself.

All coaching is done by pros from Europe, South America, and the USA with regional, national and collegiate level credentials. The coaching staff includes USA National Team coaches who have developed the highest number of local players achieving success at the collegiate, national team, and professional levels.

Note that the *Soccer Institute* is a supplement to Club team play, not a replacement. In fact, Club team coaches are some of our strongest supporters since they know the result is better-skilled club players!

**For more information, email:  
[info@superdomesports.com](mailto:info@superdomesports.com) or call 201.444.7660.**

## **Upcoming Seminars**

In the months ahead, the *Soccer Institute* will be hosting various presentations and seminars, including a night with top professional and world players who developed their game working with Kaz and his trainers. This includes current and past members of US National teams, MLS and European pro teams.

**Other planned seminars include:**

- Nutrition & Performance: Getting the Right Fuel
- Sports Psychology: The Mindset of a Champion
  - Injury Prevention

Look for details in the months ahead.



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