

★ Alumni Win First Annual Match vs. Placer Coaches

Playing before an enthusiastic crowd, the Placer Coaches went up against Placer Alumni in a hard fought game at Oakmont field. The Alumni came away with a 2-0 win. Josh Zimbrich and Aaron Rietz both scored against their former coaches. The more experienced coaching staff held their own against the younger alumni team for most of the game but gave up the two scores on some nifty moves in front of the net. The Placer fans were treated to an excellent display of soccer skills on what proved to be one of the few dry nights in December. All are looking forward to a rematch next year.



★ Placer United Athletes Headed for the National Junior Olympics

Placer United would like to recognize three of our own young players who have qualified for the USATF National Junior Olympic Championships in Cross Country Running. Lauren Gollnick (U-12 Girls Black), Elle Gollnick (U-9 Girls), and Danielle Navinski (U-10 Girls Gold) are heading to Providence, Rhode Island on Dec.10th. Along with their dedication to their respective Placer United teams, these girls have spent many countless hours training with the Silver State Striders Team (based out of Reno). Facing stiff competition, they competed in 3K cross-country courses all over including Reno, Salinas, Santa Rosa, and Fresno before qualifying for the nationals. Way to go girls, and Good Luck in Providence!

★ Champions with the Spirit of Christmas

In the beginning of the season, Coach Jamie Howard had to literally beg girls (she got turned down many times) to join the U12 Girls Black team because of the bad reputation from the previous year. This was a B team that was composed of only half the girls previously playing competitive soccer. They worked hard all season and finished with a record of 8-1-2!!! They won their division and definitely deserved it. To make this team even more special, the girls talked about what to do with the team's "goal money". They agreed that the best thing to do is sponsor a family for Christmas who is less fortunate. They are in the process of getting the names of the members in the family and their Christmas lists. In the next week or so, they will go shopping for the family and deliver the presents. The girls have gone above and beyond what a soccer team accomplishes, not only on the field, but off as well. Coach Jamie is extremely proud of these young ladies.

★ Placer U14 Boys in Nomads Finals

The U14B Gold team made a good run in the prestigious Nomads Thanksgiving tournament in San Diego. They started out slow with a loss and a tie but then won three games in a row to advance to the Final against the Paris-St Germaine team from the Riverside area. They lost a close match 1-0, but took home metals and gained some well deserved respect from the SoCal clubs.

★ Placer Boys Teams Shine in Mustang Tournament

The U11 Boys Gold team took First Place in the Headless Horseman Tournament this past Halloween weekend. The U13 Boys Gold team took Second Place. Congratulations to both!

★ Reading Football Club comes to Placer United in search of the next Bobby Convey

In December 2004, I traveled to England to meet with some representatives of the Reading Football Club's Academy and Football in the Community Scheme. The meeting was to discuss a coaches' exchange program which would offer the opportunity for a couple of our American coaches to experience youth soccer within a professional club. We had decided that as part of the exchange we would publish a report.

This past summer, Football in the Community Officer Nick Gorman was sent over to California by the Reading Football Club (currently 2nd in the Coca-Cola Championship) to try to build a working relationship with an American youth soccer club- Placer United.

One of Nick's first duties was to work with our U15, U16, U17 & U18 Boys' teams in a week-long camp. During his trip he also had the opportunity to work with our U13 Boys Gold team.

Upon Nick's return to the UK, the report was published in the Club Program for the Reading v Crystal Palace Game. There were over 17,000 people in attendance at that game and almost 5,000 programs sold. [Click here to view the article and photo of U13 Boys](#) (champions of Cal Cup as a U12 team). For more information on Reading football club or U.S. Men's National Team Player Bobby Convey please visit www.readingfc.co.uk

-Nathan Williams

★ Coach Jamie Howard (U12G Black) Named Cal-Pac Player of the Week October 5, 2005 Rocklin, CA.

William Jessup University women's soccer team was granted its first NAIA Player of the Week honor this week. Senior midfielder Jamie Howard scored four goals in a home match versus Pacific Union College last Wednesday. Howard currently has four goals and three assists on the season. She was a big part of WJU's first conference win on Tuesday as she contributed two assists to defeat Bethany University 3-0 in Scotts Valley. Howard was also honored this week as the USCAA Women's Soccer Player of the Week.

✦ **Passback Program** - Over the next two weekends Placer United Soccer Club's Director of Coaching Nathan Williams will be heading up a Uniform drive to encourage families to passback your old gear – it's a chance to give back to the game that has been so great to all of us.

Your old gear - it stays in the closet, it clutters up the garage, it never leaves the trunk and it will probably never be used again, but it's good to throw away. This old gear can be put to good use! There are teams, even here in the United States, that don't own even the most basic soccer equipment – jerseys, boots, balls. Through the US Soccer Foundation and the Placer United Soccer Club you can help. Simply stop by Mahany Park in Roseville over the next two weekends and leave us your gear and we will find a great home for it.

Where: Mahany Park, Roseville

When: February 25th, February 26th, March 4th, March 5th

Time: 8:00am-5:00pm

What the Passback Program offers:

The Passback program collects used but still playable gear and sends it to teams/organizations who are otherwise unable to afford even the most basic soccer equipment. From a small school in Zimbabwe to an after-school program in inner-city New York, Passback gear has found its way to all corners of the globe. It has grown from one box sent to a family friend to a program that donated some 30,000 pieces of gear last year.