

Placer United Soccer Club - News Archive - Nov/Dec 2003

- ★ **PUSC Information Night Coming Soon!** - The Placer United Soccer Club invites you to its annual **Information Night** on Wednesday, February 18th, 2004 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. The information-packed meeting will include guest speakers from Division I colleges, a chance to meet Placer team coaches, and will include other "fun" soccer activities. Mark your calendars and come to the [Sunset Community Center](#) at 2650 Sunset Blvd. in Rocklin.
- ★ **U13 Boys take 2nd place at Chico** - The Placer United Prestige U13 Boys team placed 2nd in the Chico Fall Classic Invitational after winning their bracket over the weekend in Chico. The team beat Gold Country Storm 2-1 and San Carlos Cyclones 4-2 and then tied Butte United Sting 1-1. They lost the championship to Butte United Sting 4-1 in an exciting finish. Outstanding players were goalie Charlie Diamond, striker Chris Avenant with 4 goals and defensive standout Nick Law. Congratulations U13 Boys!
- ★ **PUSC Board Meetings Open to Everyone** - Our Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm. Meetings are usually at Raleys on Douglas Blvd. (Target Center) in Roseville. The meeting room is in the back of the store by the pharmacy. See you there! [Past Board meeting minutes](#).
- ★ **U18 Girls take 2nd place at Irvine Harvest Cup** - going south for Thanksgiving, the U18 Girls faced great competition in every game and did extremely well. In their first game they beat San Bernardino Premier 1 - 0 on a direct kick. The second game ended in a 0 - 0 tie against a Premier team from Las Vegas. Finally, they faced another undefeated Premier team from Los Angeles. It was a back and forth battle with lots of pressure. Placer scored twice on counter attacks and the Placer goalie stopped a PK, but the LA team finally scored, making it 2 - 1. After Placer stopped a direct kick and continued to fight off their attack, the game ended with the score 2 - 1. Placer advanced to the championship. The other team scored early on a counter attack and despite a great effort for the rest of the game, the final score remained 1 - 0. Congratulations Placer U18 Girls on a great tournament!
- ★ **U14 Boys take 2nd at Sac United Holiday Tournament** - Thanksgiving weekend saw an awesome performance by the U14 Placer boys. They lost the championship game 1 - 0 in the 2nd 5 minute golden goal overtime. With only 30 seconds left to play before PK's it was "one of those things." Congratulations U14 Boys!
- ★ **Coach Applications** for the 2003/2004 season are due 1/12/04. Mail completed applications to PUSC, P.O. Box 98, Roseville, CA 95678. Get [applications here](#).
- ★ **An open letter from our U18 girls coach to the PUSC Community:**

On behalf of the students, parents, and community members of Cimarron Chico, Jalisco, Mexico we give our most sincere thanks for your donation of uniforms. The small uniforms were given to the students at the school's end of the year closing ceremonies. The large uniforms were given to the older kids. There were more than 50 players receiving such a pleasant gift.

The players organized practices to prepare for a tournament to wear their new uniforms.

Every year I pay a visit to this humble village and it is the most relaxing trip of my entire year. You have made this trip an exciting experience for all. Enclosed you'll find pictures of the school's Closing Ceremonies and a group of older players.

Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Sincerely,

Pablo Gutierrez
Placer United Spirits U18-G



★ **The Placer U12 Gold boys** continued their winning ways. In the Headless Horseman tournament in Danville, they won three games and tied one taking third place overall. Included was a very convincing 4-0 win over last year's State Cup champions, the Chivas from S.F. This tournament was one of the best this year with top notch competition, good looking fields, and trophies! Congratulations U12 Gold Boys!



U12 Gold Boys took 3rd place in Mustang Tournament!

★ U11 Boys Take Odyssey and Challenge Jinx or Morning Jinx Stifled by Time Change -

Placer United U-11 Boys soccer has come to view 8:00 AM starts in the same vane as the baseball Red Sox view the Curse of the Bambino . And these superstitions tend to grow around Halloween. The weekend of October 25th at the Clovis Odyssey Challenge Cup near Fresno, the young men needed to prove that their own personal jinx had no power. Placer has had a habit of opening each of its tournament runs with uncharacteristic performances in the morning time slot only to regroup and show why it is the most feared team of its age in Northern California.

The story gathered more fuel when The Prestige opened up with a 2-1 loss to the Merced United Arsenal, a team it has beaten in the past. After scoring with only five minutes gone in the game, the team coached by Gregg Thompson and Vince Clephane expected a more dominating performance. Unfortunately the goal coming off the foot of Casey Meuser from a Kolby Mitnick cross became the only bright spot. The Arsenal received a kick from the penalty spot after a tripping call to tie up the match. The Gunners then went up late in the match after a ball slipped across the goal box and was guided in for an easy goal and eventually the win.

As the Prestige approached their second match, the curse had taken firm hold of all but their hopes as a single wild-card spot was still available in the 9 team format. They knew their fate relied on a strong showing against one of the host sides and would probably come down to a "goal differential" tiebreaker. Placer showed the confidence of a true champion as they blanked the home side 6-0. Two goals by Connor Hallisey, two by Mitnick and nice finishes by Dylan Clephane and Tyler Crandall provided the scoring. This proved to be enough of a goal differential to clear them in the fourth slot and a wildcard semi-final against Almaden Fall Classic Champion Santa Clara Sporting. The game would take place the following day at 8:00 AM.

Placer and Sporting have met twice before with each taking a 2-0 victory. The Prestige won a finals match to claim the River City Champions Cup while Sporting claimed a victory in an 8:00 AM match up at the Almaden tournament they ended up winning.

The rubber match seemed to start where Sporting left off netting them a goal in the first ten minutes. Placer would not go away so easily and Connor Hallisey provided the answer with a tremendous shot from the left flank after taking on the Sporting defender. The two champions battled continuously through the second half with no further result.

Per the rules of the tournament, the semi-final would go directly to penalty kicks. After three successful kicks by each team, a Placer player stepped up and was stopped by a nice goalkeeper save. It seems the curse might still hold but in likewise fashion, the next Sporting player became intimidated by the side-to-side movements of keeper Kevin Hollingshead and misfired wide right. The final kicks were taken and then sudden death ensued. Tyler Crandall would offer no opportunities to the Sporting net-minder as he calmly placed his shot into the upper right triangle. The Sporting keeper stepped up to take his turn on the kicking side but struck it right at the goalie. Game over. Placer goes to the finals.

Going into the afternoon championship, the Prestige had a chance for redemption as their opponent turned out to be the same Merced United squad that stifled them the day before. The Arsenal was now the only unbeaten team left in the tournament. In the end the Placer Champions proved too much as they quickly converted three opportunities before half time. Ty Thompson, who did not play in the opening match because of an ankle sprain, showed his worth with two goals including one from the penalty spot. Hallisey rounded out the half time scoring, again beating his man around the left corner and providing some textbook finishing.

The second half had the Gunners pulling one back to make it 3-1 and then keeper Hollingshead had to make a daring one-on-one save to keep the game out of reach. Just to show their strength, the Prestige added two more from Mitnick to make the final 5-1 and a resounding statement that they were indeed the champions.

Now about that morning curse; daylight savings time set the clocks back that Saturday night and so the real time felt like 9:00 rather than 8:00, so the boys will need to wait until another day to prove it is truly gone. For now, they have collected their fourth Championship in six tournaments and remain the team to beat in northern California.

- ★ **Congratulations to Grayson Glass and Joshua Zimbrich** - named to the 2003/04 Regional ODP Teams for '87 boys, they both play on the Prestige '87 team, coached by Paul O'Brien and Bart Morefield.
- ★ **Tournament Application Directions** - Coaches & Managers [get directions here](#) for applying to 2003/2004 tournament ([requires Adobe Reader](#))

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