
Elite Soccer - What does it mean to you?

Posted by sburleigh - 2008/04/15 16:54

What does "elite soccer" mean to you?

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Re:Elite Soccer - What does it mean to you?

Posted by jbrovsky - 2008/04/15 17:23

The new Development Academy is a great idea for a number of reasons:

--It takes control away from the USYSA. This is an organization that protects the adult interests in running state associations. This means that the adult administrators, many of them paid and self-interested, have no interest in developing players who might play on the highest level. They are more concerned about getting more members--rather than promoting excellence. The DA came into being because the coaches, interested in development, need better games and their rules in order to make their players into the best. Just ask any parent who is concerned about their elite athlete which organization is better.

The sad result is that the regional championships--which have been great competitions--will be watered down this year and in future years.

--The teams never play a meaningless game. By this the talent level of the DA is so much advanced over state local teams that the only way for one of these minor teams to win is to make the game less like soccer and more like a jail-break.

--It's actually less expensive for the elite player in the new system--the DA. The league has been concerned about costs. My kid is a U-19 this year. At U-14, he went to Hawaii with a hell of a team, they were disqualified--on a technicality. Since then, they've been in the regional championships every year (they lost to the great Arsenal team from SoCal). The CSYSA and USYSA did not care about the elite players on my son's team. Unfortunately, they're back in Hawaii this year--a nice vacation for the administrators--Again! The difference in actuals is anywhere from \$3,000-5,000. It came a year too late for our family.

--The coaching is superior--and I hope this would make the administrators and the refs superior, too. Speed of play increases every level you go up, and I admire the amazing progress of our young kids who have learned to play at a high level.

--If I were a college coach I would be impressed by the level of competition and more confident that the players I choose will be able to play at the next level. Basically, you've got the Disney Showcase occurring on a weekly basis all over the country. That can't but help.

--Finally, there can be some positive collegiality developing among the best coaches of the best teams in America. The market will only allow the best to flourish. If there is a substandard coach coaching an elite team, the parents will demand the hide of that coach. What I would be worried about at this time is the quality of coaching from the MLS sponsored teams. I am not impressed with their skill or quality.

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Re:Elite Soccer - What does it mean to you?

Posted by rziegler - 2008/04/22 22:04

Some very good points here and it's important that for all the cost issues, if you step back and look at how far we've come with this in less than a year, it's a very positive step. More and more club DOCs are realizing they must get involved with this. I'm starting now to hear about smaller clubs trying to arrange satellite/feeder relationships with the Academy members. I think some of the Academy clubs are now starting to think through how they should do thing differently at ages younger than the Academy.

It's not perfect and it won't be for a while, but the motivation is there and as jbrovsky says, it wasn't always before.

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Re:Elite Soccer - What does it mean to you?

Posted by diego - 2008/05/29 22:51

I think its also very positive to see that more clubs are joining the academy, and more specifically more youth clubs related to professional teams in the MLS. When the pro teams become involved at any level, they come one step closer to the European and Latin American system - which should be the model, and eventually will be.

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Re:Elite Soccer - What does it mean to you?

Posted by AZeda2 - 2008/06/02 14:41

Diego has a good point!!! i mean, if that is what we are trying to mirror with the Academy, there needs to be input and youth teams from EVERY MLS CLUB. This way, as more teams join the MLS such as seattle next year, the number of academy teams increases at the same time. By then i think US Youth Soccer (club) will be a lower level and the Academy will be where the best players play. Does anyone agree?

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Re:Elite Soccer - What does it mean to you?

Posted by mbman - 2008/06/02 15:06

yah i think every MLS team should be obligated to have a youth team, u20 etc, all leading up to the reserves and full team. Wouldnt that be a real representation of what they have over in Europe?

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Re:Elite Soccer - What does it mean to you?

Posted by BFUDGE - 2008/06/02 15:47

Yeah it wold. In europe, you start out with the youth development program and the ultimate goal would be playing in a first team game. Do you think many people in the united states know about this system though??

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Re:Elite Soccer - What does it mean to you?

Posted by Pattyoohsee5 - 2008/06/02 16:11

I dont think many people outside of the football realm know much about the european development process at all. I mean how would they? Being originally from Ireland and moving here, i think that more people like parents and coaches at the YOUNGEST level need to be educated about the youth football development process. Dont you think thats a good place to start?

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Re:Elite Soccer - What does it mean to you?

Posted by SMclaughlin33 - 2008/06/04 12:04

I agree. Parents and coaches at the youngest levels need to be educated about how things are done in europe and presented with ideas to mimic that here in america. Maybe even starting at the youngest levels of club and AYSO would help and show parents, kids, and coaches what the next level of soccer in the US could be.

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Re:Elite Soccer - What does it mean to you?

Posted by Soccerstar54 - 2008/06/04 12:31

Exactly!! by educating parents, players, and coaches from a young age, elite soccer will force its way into the US soccer system.

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Re:Elite Soccer - What does it mean to you?

Posted by jbrovsky - 2008/06/05 20:52

It will be interesting to track the effects of the DA on the USYSA Championships. The USYSA in Colorado is struggling to put representative teams on the field that can compete in regionals. I also think this will affect the showcases that have been used by the colleges to recruit players to their schools.

The DA filled a void that was created by the antique structures of the traditional youth soccer environment. Region IV must address the issues around the development of the Academy. In the past 10 years, I don't think the USYSA has been responsive to the most important member: the player. And from this the coaches have suffered under their direction, and in turn the parents that "get it." I'm sure that even in the infancy of the DA, there is much more customer satisfaction with this group than the formal.

So one structure replaces another because it becomes irrelevant. What's new?

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Re:Elite Soccer - What does it mean to you?

Posted by Soccerstar54 - 2008/07/14 15:38

This is a very good point. I think that the way things are going, the USYSA will pretty much become obsolete. But what do you think the clubs that aren't in the academy will do????

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Re:Elite Soccer - What does it mean to you?

Posted by CC7@aol.com - 2008/07/14 16:06

I think that normal club soccer of the past will become more of an AYSO type of rec league. I know this is a rash judgment, but with the way things are going, you never know. The top players will thus play in the academy, and the players who aren't will play club.

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