

Under 9 - 97 Blues



Back row (from left to right): Saso Nikolovski (Coach), Roderick Moore (Assistant Coach), Aaron Hrastovec, Dylan Szostopal, Maxwell Medved, Tony Nikolovski, Blake VanZetten, Paul Medved (Team Manager)
Front row (from left to right): Arin Yilmaz, Brad-Lee Bulloch, Ryan Resendes, Octavio Emersberger
Absent: Pablo Ortiz, Matthew Petroni, Kolton Schram, Woodman Sharma, Adrian Mag

Windsor Youth Indoor Soccer League

This competition was very useful for our team to stay fit during the winter. It helped us get more familiar with each other in competitive environment. We played versus our sister teams from Selects.

Great Lakes Soccer League U11 Huron Division (Spring)

Our first competitive experience in this league proved to be valuable for both players and coaching staff. It helped us identify our strengths and weaknesses. Although we didn't win a point, we scored a good number of goals and in a couple of games came very close to winning a point. Two and a half years difference in age (on an average) at this developmental stage was too much to handle.

Canton Tournament

Playing versus other competitive teams in a same age bracket (just slightly older than us) was pleasure to watch. More uncertainty brought more excitement. The game we lost was a wake up call that, although we are selected team, there is much more to be done in order to win versus other talented teams of the same age.

Windsor Soccer Club House League U10

Just when we thought we are going to win all of the games, we lost our last. Over confidence is not an ally in any sport. But it prompted me to focus more on our mental preparation, which came in good time for Springfield tournament.

Springfield Tournament

The highlight of the season was our excellent play on this tournament. Without Dylan, who is our "King of the Defense", we won 3 games versus respectful opponents. The only game we lost was in the last moments of the play, which was our second game of the day, only a couple hours after the previous game. Ryan's score from a penalty kick and his celebration afterwards is an unforgettable moment. I felt like being in the World Cup. Congratulations to all players. They all gave their last atom of energy.

2006 Season Team Record	W	L	T
Windsor Youth Indoor Soccer League	1	3	0
Great Lakes Soccer League U11 (Spring)	0	10	0
Canton Tournament	1	1	1
Windsor Soccer Club House League U10	4	1	0
Springfield Tournament	3	1	0
London Tournament	2	1	0
Great Lakes Soccer League U11 (Fall)	6	3	1
Friendly games	3	3	0



London Tournament

On this tournament one could already notice our recognizable style of play. We established ourselves as a team with players who know what to do one step ahead. Our last game was deciding our trip to Orlando, Florida for next year's All-American tournament. Unfortunately, London City was too strong for us this time. We'll see next year.

Great Lakes Soccer League U11 Michigan Division (Fall)

Now, playing "only" one and a half years older (on an average) teams, we were in a better position to show our talent. It was clear already in our first game. Although we lost with small margin, it was obvious to me we are going to have a good season. The next game we won 11:0. I know, I know it was not nice of us, but it felt good. That was our first ever win in Great Lakes Soccer League. We went on to win all of our home games (with goal difference 26:6), and scored 4 points in last two away games. We finished second in our division. Overall, it was evident that we matured as a team, and players improved in physical, technical, tactical and emotional aspects of the game.

Friendly games

We played U9 select teams from Tecumseh and La Salle, as well as Windsor Serbs U10, which was very useful in our preparations for tournaments. We also played U8 select team from Tecumseh later in the season - the "old" Pablo's team.

Here are some of my observations of player's strengths and areas for improvement:

Brad-Lee (2) - Fast left footed wing with powerful kick. Positive self talk should come from within. Praise will follow.

Max (3) - Huge improvement, especially in shooting. Aerobic stamina is very much needed in soccer. Don't allow yourself to go out of breath too soon.

Octavio (4) - Hard worker and smart thinker. "El pollito", work on your shooting power, and you will become "el león".

Dylan (5) - Fast and strong. Huge improvement of self confidence. Head up and aim your pass to a team mate.

Pablo (6) - Tricky dribbler, technically very strong, good endurance. Try to become a playmaker of your team. Get more involved in attack when playing in midfield.

Tony (7) - Laser precision passes. Unbeatable in penalty kicks. Tony "the Tiger", try to be more courageous. Soccer is a contact sport, too. Creative midfielder or midfield engine, either one requires a lot of smart running.

Ryan (8) - Free kicks, corner kicks and penalty kicks are his favourites. Excellent shooting for his age and size. When you talk you cannot focus. With no focus you cannot unleash your talent.

Matthew (9) - Good speed. Practices are mandatory for next season.

Aaron (10) - Never complained, always did his maximum. Speed and endurance are desirable assets to have.

Kolton (11) - Brave goalkeeper. Work on your goal kicks (power and precision).

Woody (12) - Played with "no respect" for stronger and bigger opponents. Sharp in defense, bold in attack. No toe kicking, please.

Arin "Ajax" (13) - Fast and fancy footwork. Glory and fame come only after hard work. Ronaldinho had to practice a lot, too.

Blake (14) - Very strong competitive drive. Soccer is a team sport, assists should be counted as personal points, too.

Adrian (15) - Always in right place at the right time. Soccer can provide you with an excellent physical conditioning for tennis.