

Under 9 - 98 Gold



Front row, L to R: Ryan Resendes, Joel Sands, Konner Bagherian, Petar Stevkovski, Colin Bierer,
Back row, L to R: Jay Cannon, Thomas DiMaggio, Strahinja Gajic, Owen Cannon, Manager-Pattie DiMaggio, Adesina Gbadebo, Omar Zaher, Anthony Siljanovski, Coach-Majic Bagherian

Windsor Selects THUNDER

Thirteen boys were selected from tryouts mainly from W.S.C in 2006 to become the 98 Gold team. Early fall outdoor practice then indoor winter practices commenced. As usual, when 13 new players come together we were a little disjointed. This was obvious when we played our first exhibition game and were beaten by Windsor Wheels U11. We knew we had technical skill and ability in the boys. We just had to stop playing as individuals and start playing as a team.

SPRING SEASON GREAT LAKES SOCCER LEAGUE

The spring saw us enter the G.L.S.L Huron Division which had a 2 ½ year age advantage. Our first game we lost 1-0 but the boys battled hard against a very physical team and reacted well to the loss. We saw this game as the turning point in the season and now the boys were starting to gel as a team. We continued on an eight game unbeaten streak, only slipping at the very end, but still winning the Division with six wins, one loss and one tie.

HOUSE LEAGUE

The house league games were a chance for the boys to just play – no pressures, strictly fun. It was a good chance to switch around usual player positions, work on dribbling, turning, passing, etc. and to really work on and apply some of the things we'd covered during practices.

COACHES COMMENTS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jay Cannon for his dedication and for putting his love of the game and enthusiasm into working with this team. Thanks also go to Pattie DiMaggio for her hard work and commitment in managing the team.

These boys, while determined and hard-working on the soccer field, are also a truly enjoyable bunch of individuals, pleasant, fun-loving and warm-hearted. These qualities start with the devoted group of parents we have on the sidelines at games and practices. My thanks to all of you for a great year. Finally thank you to the FC Nationals and Windsor Selects for their continued commitment and support.



HENDERSON CUP LONDON

Summer saw us enter our first tournament, The Henderson Cup in London, Ontario. This is known for being a very prestigious tournament, Ontario's best, with over 200 teams participating. We had high expectations of the boys and they didn't let us down. We won our group stage with 2 wins and one tie and faced the Oakridge Red Devils in the Semi-Final.

It should be noted that this team is the first FC National / Windsor Selects team to come home with a trophy for making the final as a first year team - an outstanding accomplishment for these kids.

FALL SEASON GREAT LAKES SOCCER LEAGUE

We have just finished the Fall season with G.L.S.L. U11 Superior Division. The boys are now playing attractive, flowing soccer and finished 9-0-0 with 68 goals for and an unbelievable 0 goals against. We are now 11 strong as we lost three boys but gained another in Sina this past summer. On the field they look a lot older than their tender age of 9 (some of them are still 8) and they are an absolute joy to watch and coach.

We played 9 of the 10 scheduled games, our last 2 games on the same cold day in rain and wind! This season really cemented these boys together as a team and it was gratifying to hear the complements and comments we received from parents, coaches and officials. These boys really worked hard and it paid off.



PLAYER OBSERVATIONS

Omar -- Agile goalie who has come out of his shell and is showing the domination and aggression needed to be a goalkeeper.

Petar -- Rock solid defender, he is fearless in the challenge and holds great stamina.

Thomas -- Left footed defender / attacker. Great ball striking ability, needs to be more accurate with the pass.

Strahinja -- Very skillful and makes awesome runs, needs to deliver final ball.

Sina -- New to the team this year, a good strong utility player who can play defense or midfield.

Anthony -- Central defender with good vision for setting up the play. Very skillful and has now learned that a pass to a teammate is easier than beating all the players.

Owen -- Moved to center midfield and does his job, determined in the challenge and now scoring goals also. Needs to watch drifting too far out of position.

Ryan -- Ryan has scored some great goals and can score even more if he positions himself correctly.

Joel -- Tricky left forward that frustrates defenses. Needs to work on his first touch "Control Joel"

Konner -- A prolific and leading scorer with a striker's instinct for goal; needs to sometimes lay the ball off to players in a better goal scoring position.

Colin -- Skillful outside right who reads the game well, scores goals because he is in the right spot at the right time. When focused he is a great player.