

For immediate release.....

Saturday February 21, 2010

ACADEMY TEAMS WIN BOTH GAMES AWAY FROM HOME

U16s win 2-0; U18's win 2-1 at Virginia Rush

The Charlotte Soccer Academy teams picked up two vital victories away from home at the Virginia Rush's Sportsplex Complex in Virginia Beach. The U16's were first to play and found a well organized Rush team that was hard to break down. The team played good penetrating possession soccer throughout the first half an hour. Although CSA managed 16 shots on goal it was not until the 36th minute that the team scored the opening goal. CSA defended at a corner well and the ball broke to Roland Minogue. With a bursting run forward he crossed the half way line and slipped a ball in to Ben Burdon on the left side of the box. Burdon touched it once inside and slotted with his left foot into the bottom right hand corner. The first 15 minutes of the second half proved different as CSA found it hard to get going. The team defended well during this period and limited the Rush to only seven shots during the game. With sixteen minutes remaining Drew Brown found an unmarked Asa Kryst down the right hand side. His first touch was to goal and his strike was low into the left hand side to make it 2-0.

The U18's kicked off at noon under glorious weather. With six injuries at the moment the team only traveled with 15 players. CSA played out of a 4-5-1 shape, looking to make things predictable defensively and then counter attack. Things went well until, the 40th minute when an in swinging free kick from the right was not dealt with at the far post and a Rush player tapped home from for a yard out. The second half proved to be one of the best team performances of the year to date. CSA continued to defend stoutly and then play from a deep position and into the lone striker. From a Rush corner the team cleared and the ball went into center forward, Conner Miller's feet, he dropped it back across the half way line to Robbie Beatty who played a great through ball into a streaking Jason Chapman. Chapman composed himself with a Rush defender on his shoulder, touched it forwards once and clipped it over the advancing Rush goalkeeper. At 1-1 the Rush poured on the pressure but the U18's held strong, playing good soccer and trying to play into their opponents final third. In the 75th minute CSA were given a free kick 35 yards out after good approach play down the left. Thomas Allen struck a good ball into the area that was kept alive three times. Eventually it fell to Jono Grad who took it on his chest, dropped it to his right foot and fired home at knee height from 19 yards out to make it 2-1.

"This was two very good results for us today" said Richard Butler, Academy Director. "We came away from home and picked up six points on the road. The U16's played some wonderful soccer today and are coming along nicely at this point of the season. The U18's had a game plan and stuck to it almost perfectly. It was a gutsy performance from the 15 healthy players that we have presently. They dug in and gave it absolutely everything they had. Congratulations to both squads".