

adidas ESP 2003 Hosts America's Top Youth Soccer Players

“Own the pitch. And you own the game.”

Start with 150 of the most talented male youth soccer players in the nation. Add 15 top staff coaches from around the U.S. and the world. Stir in about 150 college coaches looking for good recruits, a U.S. national team star, a sports psychologist and over 70 volunteers. What do you get?

★ALL-STAR TEAMS★

BAYERN MUNICH ALL-STARS

Takato Ban (CM, Houston Texans), **Mark Buchholz** (CB, Atlanta Fire), **Pavelid Castenada** (RB, B.W. Gottschee, N.J.), **Roland Erlichman** (F, Extreme SC, Calif.), **Cameron Lewis** (CB, Atlanta Fire), **John Mellencamp** (CM, Cincinnati Premier), **Brandon Oot** (CB, Syracuse Blitz Samba Beat, N.Y.), **Justin Papadakis** (GK, Atlanta Fire), **Patrick Phelan** (CB, Oakwood SC, Conn.), **Ryan J. Quinlivan** (RB, Hotspurs USA, Calif.), **Kevin Reiman** (LM, Yorktown Spirit, N.Y.), **Conrad Taylor** (GK, Colorado Rush), **Danny Vazquez** (F, West Kendall Optimist, Fla.), **Ryan Villalpando** (Fremont Fury, Calif.), **Spencer Wadsworth** (F, Dallas Texans), **Taylor Waspi** (CB, Chicago Magic), **Demitrius White** (CM, Milwaukee Simba Lions), **Michael Zaher** (LB, Las Vegas Premier, Nev.).

REAL MADRID ALL-STARS

Justin Abel (OM, Snohomish Utd., Wash.), **Angelo Amato** (CB, PDA Conquistadors, N.J.), **Cline Beam** (CM, Atlanta Fire), **Scott Bolkan** (CB, Oregon Utd. Soccer Acad.), **Stephen H. Carlson** (RB, HSC Bulls, Hawaii), **Tomek Charowski** (CM, Atlanta Fire), **Nicolas Colaluca** (CM, Bayside Utd., R.I.), **Blake Danaher** (F, Solar, Texas), **Chris Davis** (RM, Atlanta Fire), **Nicolas Frasca** (GK, Scott Gallagher, Mo.), **Adam Hahn** (GK, Irvine Strikers, Calif.), **Kamani Hill** (F, Marin Utd., Calif.), **Stephen King** (CM, FC Delco, Pa.), **Michael Konicoff** (LB, PDA Conquistadors, N.Y.), **Daniel Newell** (CB, Sereno Golden Eagles, Ariz.), **Jamil Roberts** (CB, Marin Utd., Calif.), **Luke Sager** (CB, South Central, Conn.), **Matt Smith** (F, CASL Elite, N.C.).



The adidas Elite Soccer Program (ESP) for 2003.

adidas ESP is a sanctioned U.S. Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program (ODP) event that was founded in 1997. It brings together the elite of youth soccer for a week of training, competition and classroom experiences. The 2003 boy's edition was held July 8-13 at the University of North Carolina - Wilmington.

“Our goal is to empower young players,” said Juergen Klinsmann, the adidas ESP 2003 Technical Director and designer of the camp's new curriculum. “Soccer is a player's game, but players have to learn to be self-responsible. They have to ‘own’ their ‘game’ both on and off the field. We unlock opportunities for the players at adidas ESP, but they have to show initiative to take advantage of the opportunities.”

Klinsmann, a former captain of the German national team and a member of both World Cup and European Cup championship teams, has also earned the highest professional coaching license. He now lives in Southern California and has a strong interest in youth development. He is a partner in the sports marketing company SoccerSolutions, which in conjunction with Vision Sports Marketing, served as the management team for adidas ESP.

The selection process for adidas ESP is one of the most exacting in soccer. Players are nominated by a network of club and college coaches. Regional U.S. Youth Soccer ODP experience and national team pool recognition serve as the foundation of the selections, but adidas ESP takes pride in also locating those talented players that may stand out from other soccer experiences.

“At adidas, we believe in the players,” said

Chris McGuire, Sports Marketing Manager for adidas soccer. “We're the premier soccer brand in the world, but we're still really a grassroots oriented company. It's all about the players.”

Players attending adidas ESP 2003 represented 30 states, with 48 of the players having national youth team experience and 117 players having regional U.S. Youth Soccer ODP experience.

Classroom sessions focused on both soccer and life skills, including: setting goals, developing mental toughness, selecting the right college and successfully making the transition to become a college or professional player. These and other topics were addressed by Greg Andrulis, head coach of the MLS Columbus Crew; Division I college coaches; sports psychologist Dr. Dan Freigang; coaches from Bayern Munich and AC Milan; Alf Galustian of Coerver Coaching; and Chad Blake of The Sport Source.

U.S. and Blackburn Rovers star goalkeeper Brad Friedel was the celebrity guest speaker answering questions on everything from how he is treated by his England Premier League teammates to what he eats on game-day. A former youth player from Ohio and a college star at UCLA, Friedel is the model of what a top American player can achieve. adidas ESP is a door to that dream.

At the conclusion of adidas ESP 2003, based on evaluations from training sessions, four regular games, and the adidas 989 Sports All Star Game, Danny Vazquez of Miami (Florida) was named the adidas ESP 2003 Golden Boot winner as the best field player and Conrad Taylor of Colorado Springs (Colorado) was named the adidas ESP 2003 Bronze Glove winner as the best goalkeeper.

For more information about adidas ESP 2003 visit www.adidas-ESP.com.