



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PLACER UNITED AND SAN JUAN SOCCER CLUBS JOIN FORCES TO ATTRACT
U.S. SOCCER'S ELITE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

April 6, 2009 – The Placer United Soccer Club of Loomis and San Juan Soccer Club of Folsom today announced that they are jointly launching the California Development Academy (CDA) in the boys U14, U16 and U18 age groups for the 2009-2010 season.

The CDA will be part of the national U.S. Soccer Development Academy program, which is designed for the top soccer clubs and elite players from around the country. Currently 78 clubs nationally participate in the Development Academy program and CDA will be one of only five Northern California programs.

“With Placer United and San Juan ranked in the top five soccer clubs in Northern California, it made sense for us to join forces if we are truly serious about developing players who will one day help the U.S. compete to win a World Cup,” said Nathan Williams, Placer United Executive Director of Coaching.

Along with the CDA, the other Northern California Development Academy teams are the Danville Mustangs, De Anza Force, Santa Cruz County Breakers and Clovis Odyssey.

The Academy interview and application process included visits from U.S. Soccer Federation national scouts, who analyzed each club's structure, training facilities, coaching-staff qualifications and player abilities.

“As the only Development Academy program in the Sacramento region, we now are creating an environment that brings our elite players together,” said Bill Wiskel, San Juan Director of Coaching. “We're joining a very exclusive group of soccer clubs, and it's exciting that we'll be able to compete against the best in the country.”

“With the Academy program, the goal is to have players training more and playing less, which will help bring U.S. soccer in line with the rest of the world,” said Placer United's Williams.

U.S. Soccer added only three Academy programs for the 2009-2010 season. In addition to the CDA, Academy programs were awarded to Major League Soccer franchises the Houston Dynamos and Kansas City Wizards.

“We’re hoping that with cooperation from other soccer clubs in the area that we’ll be able to create one of the country’s top soccer academies,” said San Juan’s Wiskel. “We worked hard to get the Development Academy program to the Sacramento area so players wanting to compete at the highest level have that opportunity.”

College coaches from the top schools from around the country are endorsing the Academy program as an effective way to identify top players.

An informational meeting on the CDA program will be held on Tuesday, April 14 at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Hotel located at 5321 Date Ave. in Sacramento (near I-80 and Madison Ave.). Additional details on coaching staffs and tryouts for the CDA can be found at www.placerunited.com or www.sanjuansoccer.org.

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Additional background:

<http://soccer.net.espn.go.com/columns/story?id=614020&sec=us&root=us&cc=5901>