

NEW JERSEY BLAZE

Press Release



Morris Plains, NJ, February 10, 2009

YPSL Finals Weekend Details Announced



The Youth Premier Soccer League today announced its play-off arrangements for the 2009 season, which will be hosted by Long Island, and scheduled to coincide with the Women's Premier Soccer League Final Four. The finals weekend will run August 1st and 2nd, with the leading teams from the YPSL North Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic conferences battling for overall league supremacy. The event will be hosted by the Albertson club on Long Island, along with the semi-finals and finals of the WPSL, bringing together the top women's amateur clubs in the United States.

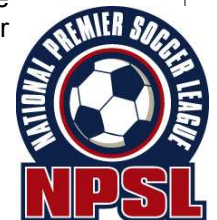
The Long Island Fury were WPSL National Champions in 2006, and their head coach Paul Riley is excited at the prospects of welcoming the women's and youth finals in '09. "It should be a great weekend", said Riley, "with talented youth players from across the region contesting their own championships, while able to watch role models illustrating what they might go on to achieve in the game". Riley is perhaps more able than most to comment on what youth players might go on to become, with two of his own Fury players selected in the first round of the recent Women's Pro Soccer draft, with Christina DiMartino (3rd overall, F.C Gold Pride) and Allie Long (7th overall, Washington) both first round picks. Riley's own Albertson club is a member of the USSF Soccer Development Academy, as well as having a number of teams playing in the YPSL, with a long-standing reputation for developing players.

YPSL Commissioner Andy Sones also identified the many positives of the integrated finals weekend. "Even many of the best young players don't get to watch a lot of soccer", he noted "but this is a great opportunity to get all the kids at the finals weekend to the senior finals games. This is a great chance for the kids and their parents to see some great soccer at all ages, it is good for the WPSL teams from across the country to be recognized, and it's wonderful for the YPSL to be a part of what will be an outstanding weekend of soccer". The 2009 YPSL season kicks off in late June, with the full schedule to be announced shortly.

The Youth Premier Soccer League is a high quality regional league, providing top-level competition for elite players across the north-eastern United States. Multiple games are played over competition weekends at central venues through the summer. This format enables more playing opportunities per weekend, without expensive tournament costs. The league offers top quality soccer through the summer season, supporting player development within genuinely regional competition, while minimizing travel and accommodation costs.

More about the Blaze at
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