

# THE NEW JERSEY SOCCER GROUP

## Press Release



### Champion Ofori Lights Up Blaze Roster

March 17, 2011—South Brunswick, NJ

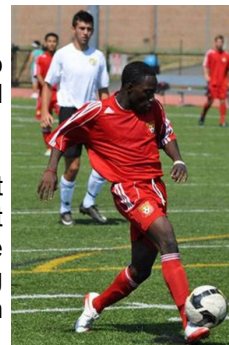


As the [NPSL](#) season approaches, [NJ Blaze's](#) 2011 roster is beginning to take shape. One key element of Blaze's midfield promises to be Evans Ofori, an important part of the team which won the U20 championship in 2010. Ofori was a perfect example of the opportunities available to talented players with the right attitude as he not only made the difference in the U20 team, he also graduated to the senior team at the end of the NPSL season, making a big impression against FC Sonic Lehigh Valley and FC Revolution, where he scored his first goal for the senior team.

Talking about his experience with the Blaze in their inaugural season, Ofori looks back fondly: "The experience of the U20 team was great. We had a good level of talent and it felt really great winning the U20 championship because we sent a message about the Blaze." Ofori also pays tribute to the quality of coaching from Ricky Duggal: "Coach Ricky was great because he gave me the responsibility of being a leader on the field and asked me to be a role model to the rest of the team. I enjoyed the pressure!"

Ofori's quality was also evident and he moved up to the senior team seamlessly. "It was great to move up to the senior team and something I needed. The level of play was very competitive and scoring against Revolution was special."

Born in Ghana, Ofori arrived in New Jersey at age 9. A North Brunswick resident, Ofori shone at North Brunswick High School and his experience on the Blaze, coupled with a strong season at Bryant and Stratton College in New York State, will see him transfer to the prestigious Syracuse University for the Fall. Ofori will join another Ghanaian on the Blaze roster, Ansgar Otto. Speaking about the link, Ofori said: "It's good to have another Ghanaian on the team. "We play soccer with a similar style. Hopefully we can take this chemistry and make it work for the Blaze this season!"



Blaze Head Coach Rob Napier commented on Ofori's progression to the senior team: "Evans has demonstrated he has all the qualities to compete in the NPSL. He is a very clean striker and will be a threat at set-pieces. Equally, he plays with a very good level of intelligence and awareness, he times his runs from midfield very well and is often making either the final pass or finishing chances. Just as importantly, Evans' enthusiasm for the game is tremendous, he plays with a smile on his face and I know he'll be a big hit with Blaze fans!"

The [New Jersey Blaze](#) represent Central New Jersey in the Keystone Conference of the [National Premier Soccer League](#) (NPSL) and are a member of [The New Jersey Soccer Group](#), a management company for a family of soccer based organizations offering a full range of soccer services in New Jersey.