

ANB ACADEMY FUTBOL U-12 & U-16 TEAMS RETURNED FROM ITS LONGEST EUROPEAN FUTBOL TOUR WITH GOOD RESULTS

August 10, 2010



Ireland/Foyle Cup July 16 to July 25, 2010:

The ANB U-12 & U-16 have participated in the prestigious Foyle Cup Tournament in Ireland (www.foylecup.com). The U-16 competed in the School Boys division which is considered the strongest and most important age group in the tournament. The Foyle Cup Tournament is ranked as the second best in the UK for these particular categories.

- *Match Summaries for U-16:*
3 wins, 1 tie and 2 losses with 8 goals for and 8 goals against.
- *Match Summaries for U-12:*
2 wins, 2 ties and 2 losses with 12 goals for and 9 goals against.

Coaching Team Observations:

The coaching team identified the following from our European competition:

- British teams play a very fast paced game.
- Play a fast long ball, technically sound.
- Very physical playing environment.
- Play to win at all cost mentality.

- U-12 game format (11 vs. 11)
- Overall good technical abilities.
- Weather & refereeing can play a major role in result.
- Have considerable player size and strength advantage.

ANB U-12 in the Irish news:

BPY Share The Spoils With Strong Canadian Soccer Academy

20th Jul 10 - BPY 2 vs. 2 ANB Soccer Academy Canada

Report by Peter Francis

BPY come away with a point against a strong Canadian Academy team despite going behind twice.

Bertie Peacock Youths tonight proved that they were made of very strong stuff when they were faced with a very strong Canadian Soccer Academy, and a team who liked to play fine football. The game started with Peacocks very much on the back foot with ANB Academy playing all the football, and with them going 1-0 up after 10 minutes things looked ominous for Peacocks. Despite this the young Peacocks rallied hard and came into the game more in the last ten minutes of the half, but were still glad to go in only 1-0 down. The second half started with Peacocks starting to get it together, starting to create chances, and starting to cause ANB some problems. Jake Francis got things back on level terms after 10 minutes of the half, firing home from a 25 yard free kick, and this spurred the young Peacocks on, who were now on the ascendancy, creating chance after chance, and causing ANB all sorts of problems. Peacocks were dealt the cruelest of blows with 5 minutes left on the clock, when ANB, with their first attack of the half, were gift wrapped a goal after a defensive mix up, leaving the score at 2-1 with 4 minutes on the clock. Peacocks found themselves down but not out, and with one minute remaining leveled the scores, after a Ross Mc Elphatric corner was driven home by Kyle Walker, leaving the final score at 2-2

Bertie Peacock Youths 2 - 2 ANB Academy Canada

In addition, the trip to Ireland included much Cultural value with a visit to The Giant's Causeway, Dunluce Castle, Carrick-a-Rede "Rope Bridge" and Dinner at Royal Court Hotel in Portrush.

Conclusion:

- ANB Academy Player Jackson Tooke was invited by Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club (Wolves), of the English Premiership for a trial with their youth system in August 2010.
- Both ANB Teams were the youngest teams in the competition, and the teams (with its present roster), can still compete in the same division in 2011. 65% of the players on the both rosters still eligible to compete in the same division in 2012.

- The tournament provided good playing surfaces, was very well organized and the host town of Derry, NI was very hospitable as they welcomed tournament teams. We feel that this was a very good tournament experience for both teams.



France/Passion Foot Experience, July 25 to Aug 3, 2010:

The ANB Teams arrived to France exhausted and the U-16 side was full of injuries after playing 6 difficult games in 5 days in Ireland plus a long day of travel. The teams were hosted at the Yerville Regional Training Centre in the Normandy Region.

During the French stay, both teams played two games each & were trained by the passion foot professional coaching staff.

- *Match Summaries for U-16:*
1 tie and 1 loss with 2 goals for and 5 goals against. The team had nine injured players out of 19 in both games. The first game was vs. the Normandy regional team with a score of 2-2 and the second game was vs. U-16 of Stade Malehrbe Caen of France Ligue 1 with a 3-0 loss.
- *Match Summaries for U-12:*
2 losses with 1 goal for and 5 goals against. The team was healthy overall, had a weak first game with a 4-1 loss vs. an older select French team, and a very strong second game vs. the Normandy regional team with a 1-0 loss.

Coaching Team Observations:

- The French team's style of play is based on great fast paced technical & Tactical game intelligence.
- French teams play the ball on the ground.

- Very good passing abilities.
- U-12 game format (8 vs. 8)
- Good football weather.
- Good playing surfaces.
- French teams have a mix of big and small type players.
- Excellent experience with above average results for the ANB Academy.

In addition, the trip to France included much Cultural value with a visit to Mont Saint Michel, D Day Beaches Honfleur, Canadian World War 2 cemetery, Canadian War Museum, tour of Rouen on foot & a full day in Paris.

On July 30, both teams and parents Took part in a spectacle, The Euro U-19 Finale between France and Spain, with France winning 2-1 in a very exciting game in front of 21000 spectators. This event was the highlight of the trip.

Conclusion:

- The ANB Teams performed well after a well deserved rest and overall the players adjusted well to the formation centre rules and regulations. The players were required to clean their rooms and make their beds daily as per the expectations and rules of the training facility.

“Overall, I am extremely pleased with the 2010 Euro Futbol Tour. It was a real test of character for the ANB players. Lots of lessons were learned and many doors are opening up.” Bassam Naim, Academy Director.