



ANB Academy Futbol triumphs at The 2013 Keele Cup

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The ANB Academy traveled with two teams to England for 10 days at the end of July, 2013. The teams (U-12 & U-13) traveled to the Midlands area taking part in exhibition games, taking in the English football culture and competing in The Keele Cup.

The group of 27 players and 4 ANB Staff members visited the nearby town, Newcastle-under-lyme, toured Old Trafford (Manchester Utd. home stadium) and experienced the new National Football Museum located in the heart of Manchester.

On the soccer field, the teams played two exhibition games, traveling to Fleetwood Town and Oswestry, Wales to play their games. Both teams won handily and the local teams provided good competition in preparation for the tournament.

The U-12 team (2001 born; playing in the U-11 age group due to English age cut-offs) started the tournament with a convincing win against Airbus FC (Wales), but were ran into some questionable officiating in close losses to Stoke City and Blackpool FC. They finished the tournament with a tie against an American team from NYC:

ANB 4 – Airbus 0

ANB 3 – Stoke City (England) 4

ANB 3 – Blackpool FC (England) 4
ANB 2 – JIGS Academy (USA) 2

The U-13 team (2000 born; playing in the U-12 age group due to English age cut-offs) started the tournament slowly, squeaking out a last minute goal in their first game to tie Airbus. Then, the team worked hard to find close wins against Port Vale FC, The New Saints, Walsall FC, and a tie against Tranmere Rovers to put them through to the semi-finals.

The semi-finals was a tense game, ending in a draw and needing 7 players taking penalty kicks to decide the match against Blackpool FC.

The final match, played with only 30 min. rest after the semi-final game, was dominated by ANB over Tranmere Rovers.

ANB 2 – Airbus (Wales) 2
ANB 1 – Port Vale FC (England) 0
ANB 1 – The New Saints (Wales) 0
ANB 2 – Walsall FC (England) 0
ANB 1 – Tranmere Rovers (England) 1
Semi-final: ANB 2 – Blackpool FC 2 (ANB won on pks 7 – 6)
Final: ANB 3 – Tranmere Rovers 1

The team's achievement was highly regarded and their style of play was praised by all who saw the games. The player's technical ability showed that, through proper training, Canadian players can be on par with their English counterparts. The group was congratulated for their efforts and their results, and most importantly, their conduct on and off the field. Several professional scouts were in attendance at the games and they indicated they are interested in following the development of the players in the coming years.

"This is the third year participating in The Keele Cup. I am proud of the boys since we were so close in other age groups in previous years. The staff is also to be congratulated for training the team prior to the trip, and even during the trip. Overall, we are extremely proud to bring the trophy to this side of the Atlantic, to their achievements and their commitment to the Academy's vision," said Academy Director, Bassam Naim.

ANB academy's vision is to become Canada's leading soccer development organization. Its mission is to identify Canadian soccer talent, and to maximize the potential of players at any level, through professional coaching and training.

For more information on the programs offered by ANB Academy, check out our website www.anbfutbol.com, contact us by telephone at 905-313-8661 or via e-mail at bassam@anbfutbol.com

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