

FC BLADES GU11 ARE CAL CUP CHAMPIONS!

The FC BLADES GU11 team endured a tough schedule that spanned three weekends. In the tournament opener, the Blades met South Coast Bayern for an evenly matched game. It was a keeper's duel to the end with both teams taking multiple shots on goal. Blades keeper, Lexi Neary, showed enormous effort defending her goal against the approaching Bayern team. Daniella Filipovic put in the winning goal with minutes to spare to give the Blades the upper hand.

North Irvine Soccer Club was the next opponent to challenge the fired up Blades. The Blades took an early lead as North Irvine was no match for the beautiful game being played around them. Defenders Janis Jin, Brie Ratkevich, Vickie Chen and Rachel Ilda found themselves with time for additional passes and communication. Goals were posted by many Blades players for a final score Blades 6-North Irvine 1.

FC Blades then defeated FC Deportivo LA Strikers 4-0 later that afternoon. Antoinette Bailey posted two goals, JJ Riddle found an errant ball by the back post and Jessica Stevens finished off the game with 1. Blades defense was strong throughout. Rain delays factored into the final day pushing the Blades to a 3 game Sunday in their quest for the trophy. Blades met the Corona Eagles in the quarter final game. Filipovic put up a perfect corner kick that was knocked in by Claudia Hodgetts early in the game. Bailey rebounded her own shot that was finally knocked in by the opponent. Kaylee Fukumoto found Bailey with a solid mid field cross that finished the game at 3-0.

The semi final game against LAFC Chelsea had the Blades running full speed. Alex Tomich showed strength from the side as she fed Roya Leuteritz, Stevens and Bailey crosses that kept the ball on our end. Mid fielders Fukumoto, Filipovic, Hodgetts, Alex Vanous and Smiley moved the ball smoothly keeping the pressure on. Super defender Chen, found Stevens open in front and hit the target to take the lead. Bailey brought the ball across the mid field line alone and took the winning shot. 2-0 Blades.

The Blades were headed to the finals. Familiar opponent, South Coast Bayern played aggressively to keep up. Filipovic scored early on a free kick, then Stevens found Bailey poised and ready to strike. Up two at the half, the blades could not let up the intensity, Bayern answered with two tying up the game. Two 5 minute overtimes could decide the game prior to tiebreaking PK's. Bailey made an immediate run at kickoff and scored. Filipovic sealed the win with a beautiful shot launching the FC Blades sideline into victory cheers!

Coach Tim Woodcock was very proud of the beautiful game as it was play by his FC Blades GU11 team! Congratulations!

The FC Blades Gu9 found the scoring touch which had eluded them during State Cup when they took on the CSL/US California Cup. Blades started out with a 10-0 victory over LAFC Chelsea Black and followed that with a 3-0 win against a hard working Los Gauchos team. Sunday came and so did more goals. Blades swept aside local rivals Irvine Pateadores 8-0, with some fluent attacking soccer. Eager to keep the good run going Blades went into their semi final match versus Laguna Niguel and in a tough game prevailed 7-1.

The final game proved a replay of an earlier group game against Pateadores. Blades blasted into an early 3-0 lead before Pats replied with 2 of their own. However in the second half, Blades again showed their attacking verve adding another 3 goals to triumph 6-2. Excellent performances in goal came from black Jack and Cha Cha. Strong defense from Ninja, Jay Jay, Nic Nac, Hung and Lozza. Creative midfield play came from Key', Aliyah, Speedy, Jenna and Hannah. Goals a plenty from forwards tigger.

GU16 CAL CUP CHAMPIONS

The Blades GU16 team played in the 2010 championship Cal Cup game against Juventus FC on Sunday and walked away with the win and the trophy to show for it. With a full roster, this Blades team is absolutely stacked with talent. **Ally Spafford, Kendra Abellaneda, Yasmin Hart** and **Chandler McCann** were a threat up front, for sure. Add **Mila White** into the mix and they were lethal with both size and speed. The inside middle was controlled by the dynamic duo of **Maral Amani** and **Jodie Kench** with sharp shooters **April Modesti, Hannah Hildebrand, Aria Zommers** and **Natalie Eulogio** on the outside wings. Our fullbacks **Ceci Adams, Alaina Senear** and **Tania Eulogio** anchored the awesome sweeper/stopper team of **Melanie Larios** and **Jenna Wood** and gave lots of support to goalkeepers **Taryn Greenberg** and **Whitney Goldsberry**. Talk about balance!

From the start it was obvious to see that the Blades were in command. They owned the field. There were so many shots on goal it was ridiculous but alas they were too high, too wide, too slow or the goalkeeper got in the way. Nevertheless, the girls kept at it. **Kench** kept her cool and along with **Amani** kept winning the ball and sending it up. Finally, after the half, **Spafford** doing some fancy footwork got around the defenders and dribbled in the first goal of the game. Juventus FC answered by putting one in of there own. This put the pressure on and, not to be outdone, the Blades showed they were up for the challenge. They played smart, they played to feet and passed the ball around like professionals, using the outside mids and the entire field to their advantage. The one two touches were beautiful and well played. **Abellaneda**, aka the energizer bunny, as usual, was everywhere and managed to place a header to

Spafford's feet who then drilled in the next goal, as well. The Blades were able to stay on the offensive and with a little help from our opposing goalkeeper the Blades got another ball inside the net to make it 3-1. Juventus FC tried to keep the heat on but our defense was just too good for them, shutting them down. Speed demons **Larios** and **Wood** certainly had their work cut out for them. All in all, every player did an excellent job and the results speak for itself.

This win means we get a free entry to Regional Play Offs in June. Yeah, baby!