

Friday, June 26, 2009

TO: Jozsef Michna, SRA/SYRA

FROM: John David McGee, SDRA
Head of Delegation

RE: 2009 Region III (Southern Regionals) Update

The Florida referee delegation to the 2009 Southern Regionals (June 18 – 24) in Dallas, consisted of the following referees: Kian Attai; Bill Chapman; Emmanuel Darriba; Marcos DeOliveira; Tori Hancock; Andres Lavin; Kyle Longville; Matt Miscannon; Mike Miscannon; Robby Saa; Kristen Schiereck; and Lance Vanhaitsma. In addition, FSR provide the tournament with a mentor and six staff/assessors, of which five were National Assessors, and two were ARAs.

Without question, the Florida delegation of both referees and staff was the strongest group represented by any of the participating states.

At the awards banquet and ceremonies on Monday, 6/22, two (2) FL referees were recognized as “Assistant Referees” of the tournament (Andres Lavin and Robby Saa); six (6) referees were recognized as “Top Soccer Refs” of the 2009 event (Kian Attai; Emmanuel Darriba; Kyle Longville; Michael Miscannon; Kristen Schiereck; and Lance Vanhaitsma); and two (2) referees were selected for the National tournament (Michael Miscannon and Kristen Schiereck), in addition to Jonathon Weiner, who was invited back this year to Nationals directly. Instead of participating at this year’s Southern Regionals, Jonathan represented Region III at the Region II tournament.

In addition, the Dave Williams “Rising Star” Award was presented to Kristen Schiereck, as the outstanding female referee of the tournament. Had there been an award for the outstanding referee of the tournament (both genders included), she would have deserved that, as well. The Dave Williams (formerly of North Carolina) “Pursuit of Excellence Award” has the following inscription: ***“Given to the female referee who best exemplifies a passion for improvement and dedication to achieving excellence on the field as stressed by the late Dave Williams.”*** When given the reward, Kristen gave a masterful, elegant response, which was the best two-minute presentation given the entire weekend. As the designated group leader of the Florida referee delegation, she demonstrated leadership both on and off the field, for this outstanding group of Florida referees, which had an average age of twenty-three years.

For the first time in my several years of having the good fortune of being Florida’s HOD, I am convinced that our least experienced referee could have managed the most difficult game of the finals, which reflects the kind of week they had. More significantly, I am proud that throughout the entire week, I heard not one single negative comment from anyone among the tournament staff, or from anyone else. Florida did well, as we should.