

Jambaars Place Second at 2010 President's Cup Tournament



The JSC Jambaars took second place in the U17 boys division at the 2010 Region IV President's Cup Tournament in Medford, Oregon June 17-20. As tournament finalists, their performance was the best to date of any Alaska team in a U.S. Youth Soccer Region IV tournament. The Jambaars faced teams from Colorado, Utah, Arizona and Cal South during the tournament and finished with 3 wins and one loss. During the course of the tournament, 6 different Jambaars scored goals.

In the first game against the Stingers Red from Evergreen, Colorado, goals in the first half by Ben Gelotte, Max Smith, and Jackson Lehnhart staked the Jambaars to an early 3-0 lead. Colorado responded with 2 goals on corner kicks in the second half to make the game close. But the Jambaars defense held firm the rest of the game preserving the 3-2 win.

In the second game against TC United from Tooele, Utah the Jambaars held a 2-1 edge at half then broke open the contest with 4 goals in the second period to win 6-2. Max Smith scored a hat trick and Jackson Lehnhart, Andy Lawson, and Sage Thibodeau also scored.

The third game against the Phoenix United Aztecas the Jambaars took a 1-0 lead early on a goal by Riley Paul but Arizona tied before half. A tense second half followed with Taylor Lehnhart making some spectacular saves in goal. Finally, Andy Lawson scored late in the game to give the Jambaars the 2-1 victory.

The championship match against So Cal Rush Nike was a classic that went into double overtime before California won 1-0. Taylor Lehnhart and Nathan Fosket especially were outstanding on defense in that game.

In fact, the Jambaars defense featuring a back line of Nathan Fosket, Peter Jorgenson, Adam Nesheim, and Sage Thibodeau was solid for the whole tournament giving up only 2 goals in the run of play. Andy Miles and Luc Rondeau also played well on both attack and defense. Rhett Bennett though hobbled by injuries was always a threat on offense. The Jambaars also benefitted from 2 guest players from the Fairbanks Eclipse who filled in at midfield.

The Jambaars received many compliments from officials, coaches, and fans for their sportsmanship and fair play. Their performance surprised a great number of people and put Alaska soccer on the map for many of those at the tournament. They represented Alaska and Juneau very well. Thanks to Coach Matt Dusenberry and Manager Mark Smith for their efforts and to the 6 parents attending the event for their support on the sidelines and help with transport and team errands.

It was a successful ending for the Jambaars who after 8 years as a JSC competitive team played their 10th and last tournament.