

MLF Athletes Push Two TT Pro League Clubs into the Playoffs



(L to R: Petrotrin's Simien Augustus and North East Star's Brent Sancho)

The Trinidad and Tobago Pro League has benefited greatly from the transfer of several MLF athletes to club rosters in time for the playoffs this season. In October, Ian Bennett and Jeremy Gold signed with United Petrotrin while Brent Sancho and Leslie "Tiger" Fitzpatrick joined the North East Stars. Both teams were on the fringe of making the playoffs at mid-season. The two clubs have seen the dividends of that decision. The Stars secured their spot in the Big Six, aided by a late goal from Fitzpatrick in the 85th minute capping off a 2-0 victory over Joe Public. That was Fitzpatrick's third goal in seven games. He also finished with six assists.

The Stars were seeded fifth at the beginning of the playoffs and tied in the third round 3-3 against Defense Force. United Petrotrin lost in the first round of the playoffs 2-0 on November 21st to Jabloteh. Jeremy Gold had an assist in the Joe Public match on the 23rd. The game finished 1-1. On the 25th, Petrotrin lost to W Connection 2-1, and tied Caledonia 2-2 on the 27th. Gold recorded one goal in the game. On the 29th, Petrotrin lost to North East Stars and fellow MLF athletes 4-1. This game concluded the playoffs for both teams with the Stars ending their run in 3rd place behind W Connection and Jabloteh, who took the title. Petrotrin finished in sixth place.

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A Note From...

Heather MacKenzie

As 2008 comes to a close, I want to remind all players that earned wages in the U.S. that they should be looking for this W-2 from your employer. You are required to file a U.S. tax return and may even be entitled to a refund. Each of you should keep a file with copies of your pay stubs as well as any receipts for expenses that you personally incur in your position as a professional footballer (shoes, apparel, non-reimbursed travel expenses, etc). The MacKenzie Law Firm is offering a tax preparation service so please contact us if we can assist you.

For professional football players, obtaining a coaching license is a great move. The process involves an application, and a waiver based on the player's professional playing experience. The licenses are issued by the United States Soccer Federation. A national team member and/or professional player will likely be eligible for a B license or a C coaching license. General requirements are as follows:

B License: Applicant has five years of coaching experience (any level) AND five years playing experience with a Senior National Team or five years of FIFA recognized professional playing experience

C License: Applicant has three years of coaching experience (any level) AND three years playing experience with a Senior National Team or three years of FIFA recognized professional playing experience.

Three MLF Athletes Join the New Indoor Soccer League

This past summer, the premiere indoor soccer league split into two separate entities, the National Indoor Soccer League and the Xtreme Soccer League (XSL). Three players from MLF Sports will be playing for XSL which starts play in December and runs until the playoffs end in April. The XSL currently has four teams: Chicago Storm, Milwaukee Wave, Detroit Ignition, and the New Jersey Ironmen. Ian Bennett, Stephen Armstrong, and Randi Patterson are all playing for Chicago Storm. They will be coached by Steve Morris.

Armstrong has become a team veteran, playing for the Storm for the last three years. This is Patterson's rookie season and Bennett's second year. In addition, Patterson enters the 2008-2009 season as the second-youngest player on the team. The XSL recently earned membership in the U.S. Soccer Federation (USSF) on December 2nd. The USSF is the governing body for soccer in the United States.

T&T National Players in the Digicel Championship



(L to R): Andre Toussaint, Seon Power, and Osei Telesford

Trinidad and Tobago Coach Francisco Maturana announced last week that national MLF team players Osei Telesford, Seon Power and Andre Toussaint will be among those representing their country in the upcoming rounds of the Digicel Caribbean Championships. In the first game, Grenada stunned Trinidad and Tobago, beating them 2-1. Osei, Seon and Andre are now looking forward to the next two games in Jamaica on December 5th and 7th. They hope to add to the long and prestigious history Trinidad has had in the Digicel Cup.

Since the Cup's inception in 1989, Trinidad has taken the title eight times and has never finished worse than 3rd. Each of these teams will surely be looking to exact some retribution for losses to the Soca Warriors earlier this year in World Cup Qualifying matches, a fact which should make for some very exciting soccer.

MLF Sports LLC
407 Summit Street Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Office: 1.336.722.9944
Fax: 1.336.722.9981
<http://www.mlfsports.com/>

Darryl Roberts among Goal Leaders in Turkish Super League

Darryl Roberts added another goal to his already impressive performance in the Turkish Super League on November 29th as he made a break in only the eleventh second, giving Denizlispor the early lead in their match against Eskisehispor. That goal marks his sixth in twelve regular season games so far this year and also the fastest goal in 50 years in the Turkcell Super Lig.

Although he is only in his first year at Denizlispor, Darryl has settled in nicely among the league's top performers and interestingly enough scored his second goal in Super League play only five minutes after his first. The last goal means Darryl is currently tied for fourth place among the league's top scorers, and at 25 he shows no signs of slowing down any time soon.

Be sure to check www.mlfsports.com for more updates on this rising star as he battles through the rest of his rookie year in the Turkish Super League.

Clubs, Scouts, and Coaches

*The following players are free agents that MLF Sports are looking to get to new clubs:
Densill Theobald, Jerson Monteiro, Abimbola Pedro, Jeremy Gold, Kevaghnn Connell, Tasha St. Louis, and Doug Edwards.*

Be sure to check our website continuously for more MLF athlete updates!