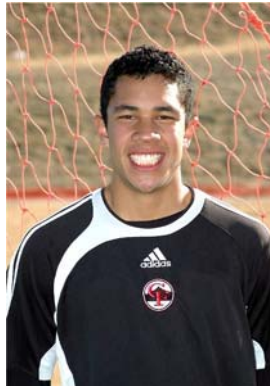


Fusion Player David Armstrong Among the Nation's Elite - Teams Up in Game With Zinedine Zidane



Davy Armstrong has had a lot of success in his very young soccer career. As a four year varsity player at Rangeview High School and High School American and State Cup Winner with Colorado Fusion, Davy confounds opponents with his outstanding speed and deceptive footwork. But never did the 17-year-old Armstrong think his talent would land him in a game with the great Zizou. That is exactly what happened in early July when he was asked to participate in the Adidas Elite Soccer Program (ESP) Camp at Dick's Sporting Goods Park in Denver, CO.

This camp is an invitation-only event and players are selected based on recommendations from a national scouting network. The selection process involves a network of over 60 experienced coaches nationwide who work year-round scouting league games, tournaments, state cups and regional and national championships. Once scouted, nominated and selected, players are then invited to participate. Adidas ESP focuses on high-school sophomores and juniors. Most of the players invited to Adidas ESP will graduate in 2010.

Some of Adidas ESP goals for the camp are to improve skills, test players' competitive ability and learn about managing off-field opportunities and challenges as they prepare for college, professional or other sports-related paths. It also gives players the chance to play in front of college and professional team coaches and scouts.

To see camp footage follow this link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_jdLpR6hbpw

In a recent interview Armstrong commented that the ESP Camp was a unique opportunity, "It was a great experience, you're playing against and with the top players in the country; every player had soccer as their #1 priority and the professional coaches provided some important feedback towards improving our game".

Armstrong described that the players were there for 5 days with 2-a-days each day. Adidas brought in special coaches including former MLS and national team veterans. During the evening seminars were offered involving topics of college recruiting and proper diet and nutrition to prepare properly for athletic competition.

At the end of the ESP Camp, the organizers put together an East vs. West All Star Game. Davy Armstrong was selected as a starting forward on the West team and was joined by no one less than Zinedine Zidane, three time FIFA World Player of the Year, who played the first half with the West team and joined the East team after the break.

Armstrong observed that playing with Zidane was like “being in a movie”; it was hard to believe that one of the top soccer players in the history of the game was playing with you on the same field.

To watch the game courtesy of Top Drawer Soccer, [go here](#).

Armstrong said he is in the process of looking at a number of schools that are recruiting him. This weekend Armstrong travels with his Colorado Fusion U17 Mundial team to the US Club Soccer National Championships in Virginia Beach to compete against the best club teams from around the country.

By making the All-Star team, Armstrong is placed in good company. Some of the other ESP graduates are:

Josmer Altidore (Generation adidas, Red Bull NY, US Men’s U20 National Team)
Michael Parkhurst (Generation adidas, NE Revolution, MLS Rookie of the Year ‘05)
Brad Guzan (Generation adidas, CD Chivas USA, US Men’s National Team)
Maurice Edu (Generation adidas, ‘07 MLS #1 draft pick, Toronto FC)
Chris Seitz (Generation adidas, Real Salt Lake, US Men’s U20 National Team)
Pat Noonan (NE Revolution, US Men’s National Team)
Danny Szetela (Columbus Crew, US Men’s U20 National Team)
Jonathan Spector (West Ham United, US Men’s National Team)
Kyle Martino (MLS Rookie of the Year ‘02)