



THE NEW YORK COSMOS GOES COAST-TO-COAST WITH COSMOS ACADEMY

Commitment to Youth Development Continues Across the U.S.; Key Partnerships and Coaches in New York and Los Angeles

August 25, 2010 (New York, NY) – The New York Cosmos continues its commitment to grassroots and youth soccer with two key announcements made today – Giovanni Savarese will be the Director of Cosmos Academy (East) and a partnership with Los Angeles Futbol Club (LAFC) will form Cosmos Academy (West). These announcements further build on the news made by soccer legend Pelé earlier this month of the return of The New York Cosmos, as well as the formation of Cosmos Academy (East) in partnership with Queens-based youth club BW Gottschee (BWG).

Savarese, an Italian Venezuelan who moved to the United States over 20 years ago to play for Long Island University, was a goal-scoring fan favorite during his three seasons with the NY/NJ Metrostars and will continue BWG's 60-year tradition of developing the highest quality soccer talent at a local and national level. The Cosmos Academy (East) will field teams from U12-U18 and will also participate in the U.S. Soccer Development Academy.

LAFC, based out of Pasadena, is one of the nation's most esteemed and competitive youth soccer organizations – and will now be called Cosmos Academy (West), based out of Pomona. The Academy will field teams from U9-U18 (boys) and participate in major leagues and tournaments throughout California, in addition to the U.S. Soccer Development Academy. LAFC has received widespread recognition in the sport, most recently being ranked the No. 1 youth club in California, and No. 6 across the country by *Soccer America*.

As part of the agreement, Cosmos Academy (East) and Cosmos Academy (West) will now be funded by The New York Cosmos, whereby costs normally incurred by the families of these elite players will now be fully covered – such as registration fees, uniforms, coaches' salaries along with the cost of participating in select tournaments and its related travel. In addition, the respective club teams under LAFC and BWG will now be called LAFC Cosmos and BWG Cosmos.

With a focus on youth development, The New York Cosmos is investing significantly to provide young talented players with elite coaching programs, facilities and training opportunities to help them realize their dreams. All of this is part of The New York Cosmos' fundamental preparation and underpinning needed to field an MLS franchise team in New York in the near future.

"Our priority is the long-term development of players who will one day represent The New York Cosmos at the highest possible professional levels in soccer," says Terry Byrne, Director of Soccer, The New York Cosmos. "Developing that talent, with the Academies and coaches that we now have on both coasts, will give us an outstanding platform for the future of The New York Cosmos as well as U.S. Soccer."

"Working with the youth has been a top priority for me after my professional career, and I want to share with the next generation all the philosophies that I gained as a player over the years," says Giovanni Savarese, Director of Cosmos Academy (East). "It is with great enthusiasm that I come to this program with the shared vision of creating a professional environment in which our youth will not only develop as soccer players, but also as great individuals."

Adds Teddy Chronopoulos, Director of Cosmos Academy (West), "We share mutual ambition and principles with The New York Cosmos, in developing special players. I can say with real excitement that this partnership will help us reach our long-term goals, given their level of professionalism, resources and contacts across the world – as well as their love of the game."

Both Cosmos Academy (East) and Cosmos Academy (West) will compete this season, starting in September.

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About The New York Cosmos, LLC:

Under new passionate ownership, The New York Cosmos continues its tradition of greatness for the next generation and vows to maintain the same ethos that made The New York Cosmos the most celebrated soccer club in the history of the United States. During its existence from 1971–1985, The New York Cosmos won five national championships. Today, as part of its rebirth and with soccer legend and former Cosmos star Pelé as the Honorary President, The New York Cosmos will continue to inspire and develop the youth through academies, camps and clinics while also attracting world-class soccer players to participate in its soccer movement. The club's ultimate vision is to be a part of Major League Soccer and to compete for the championship. For more information, visit www.newyorkcosmos.com.

About Los Angeles Futbol Club (LAFC):

The Los Angeles Futbol Club (LAFC) is rated one of the USA's most competitive soccer academies and include five teams ranked in the Top 5 of their age groups in the USA. Teams also include two Dallas Cup 2010 Champions, three Dallas Cup Finalists, two Dallas Cup Semi-Finalists, six teams in the 2010 USYS National Cup Regionals, 43 Players chosen for Cal South's Olympic Development Program (ODP), two players on the U15 US National Team, two players on the U17 US National Team, two players in the US Soccer Residency Program, and many tournament Championships in 2010. For more information, visit www.lafcsoccer.com.

About Giovanni Savarese

The Italian Venezuelan-born Giovanni Savarese enjoyed most of his soccer career in America, where he continues to be highly regarded within Major League Soccer as playing a significant role in the NY/NJ Metrostars club history. During his three seasons with the Metrostars, Savarese became a huge fan favorite and still holds the record to this day for the most goals scored in Metrostars history. Although he played for multiple teams both stateside and abroad, and also represented his birth country on the Venezuela National Team, he is best known for the impact that he's made in the local New York community – as player, youth mentor and coach. As the newly hired Director of Cosmos Academy (East), he joins The New York Cosmos' mission to further solidify their mark in the regional, national and international soccer scene. Savarese also serves as commentator for ESPN Deportes.

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