



PRINCE GEORGE'S MEN'S SOCCER RANKED 10TH IN TWO NATIONAL POLLS (NJCAA DIII & NSCAA JUCO DIII)

October 1, 2009

The Prince George's County Men's Soccer Team is currently ranked 10th in both the NJCAA Division III and JUCO DIII National Soccer Coaches Association of America polls.

Prince George's is currently 9-2-1 (6-1-1 MD JUCO). Head Coach Richard Todaro credits his team's success to players first, excellent alumni players turned assistant coaches second, and leadership a strong third. His assistants bring a world of experience and love of the Prince George's CC Columbia Blue, White and Gold tradition. In year one is Willie Ibarra (alumni from PGCC in 1984-5); in year 3 Ty Akimboni (alumni from PGCC 99-00); and in year 5 Rocco Belmonte (alumni from PGCC 98-99). Todaro is quick to remind us that "without a brilliant athletic director and staff" properly guiding his teams with effective discipline, an understanding of (college, conference and national) procedures, smart leadership, support and creative marketing, his team would be "in a world of hurt".

Todaro's team roster resembles a United Nations group (including six from African nations, one from a South American nation, a couple from Central America nations, a European or 2 and rounded out by North American "homeees"). Some of his players may have been born in other countries, but moved to the DC area as youths, and made their home in the PG Nation. Todaro credits several key players with the team's success: "Our key scoring strikers are freshmen, Adriel Garcia & Anthony Okodua, who are currently ranked in the top 20 in the nation in scoring. Both have key skills sets from Adriels playmaking abilities to Anthony's strength and nose for the goal. Mix in Terry Akpua (Co-Captain), a creative, distributing striker/midfielder and you have a scoring trio second to none. A striker makes a difference in the game score, but unless you receive good transition from a stellar midfielder like, Dave, Theo, Kamara, Ibrahim and Leo and keep the goals against low by a staunch defense like Lex, Nana, Iz, Chris, Armand and Pat in the nets and you will not be successful. Therefore, I credit our scoring to our defense that also boasts a top ten NJCAA DIII national Goal Keeper (in the goals against average stat) in Pat Todaro.

"Leo Silva is one of our captains. He is a midfielder and on-field general. Lex Silva is Leo's twin brother and both are seamless in the center of the field. Lex is a captain and a stopper on defense.

"Nana Bamfo, a fast strong, 6'3" skillful defender is another co-captain and the sweeper enforcer for our defense."

Todaro says that the team is extremely well balanced. "We have 22 players on our roster, but any 16 or 17 could start. They have a diverse set of skills on the field. We have 2 good keepers, 6 good defenders, 6 good midfielders and 3 very good strikers, and I have not even mentioned the 6 brilliant, young and skillful bench players that round out a good team Watch for them to be the focus in near future."

In addition to their work on the field, Todaro notes that the team is excelling in the classroom as well. "We built this year's team around the dirty half dozen returning sophomores, and all six are starters and all six have grade point averages of 3.4 or higher. Nana Bamfo has 3.6 GPA, and Iz Odunayo and Francis Kamara have 3.3. Leo and Lex Silva have 3.85 grade point averages, carrying 34 credits per year. Terry Akpua, a pharmacy major, took 42 credits last year and achieved a 3.8 GPA. He was also a Second team All-American on the field last 2008 season.."

Richard Todaro (Better known as Coach "T") is in his 15th season at Prince George's Community College (1996-present). He played at Prince George's in 1982 and 1983 when his teams went to nationals both years as a player. After PGCC, he went to University of Maryland (College Park) to complete his engineering degree and played on college soccer team in 1984 and 1985.

As a coach, his teams won the region twice, won Districts once, went to National final four tournaments once and perennially finished ranked in top 10-15 nationally. He has been to 6 Regional finals.

Coach T is quick to point out that while his team is good, that is not the only trait needed since they play in a talent laden region and district (it requires hard work and good fortune). "Right here in Region XX DIII there are perennial power-house nationally ranked teams, such as: MC/Rockville (MD), Howard (MD), AACC (MD), PSC (WVA). And in region XIX DIII, whom region XX tournament winner must play region XIX winner, to advance to the final four national tournament include national powers: Union (NJ), Brookdale (NJ), Ocean (NJ) and Morris (NJ), all of whom fight for one spot in NJCAA DIII Final Four tournament."

Follow all the teams and PGCC on www.njcaa.org ; www.mdjuco.org ; www.nscaa.com