

America's Best Play US Youth Soccer - Soccer America's Top 25 Youth Clubs Named

January 31, 2008 | Last Updated: 1/31/08 10:37 AM ET

Soccer America announces top 25 boys' and girls' youth soccer clubs in America for 2008

Complete review on SoccerAmerica.com* [\[boys\]](#) [\[girls\]](#)

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Today *Soccer America* magazine named the 2008 Top 25 boys' and girls' youth soccer clubs in America. These US Youth Soccer member clubs were named "America's Best Youth Clubs" by the magazine and the common denominator of success was again US Youth Soccer.

Now in its fifth installment, Soccer America selected the top 25 boys and girls clubs, based on success of their teams in national youth competitions over the last three years and national recognition for players from these clubs in 2007. The list was expanded from 20 to 25 in 2008. The most important criteria for determining 'America's Best Youth Clubs' was success in the US Youth Soccer National Championships during a three-year cycle (2005-2007) and the number of players who went on to U.S. Soccer national teams and were selected to US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program All-Star rosters via the annual US Youth Soccer ODP Thanksgiving Interregionals.

"Congratulations to each of the 25 clubs - all of whom are US Youth Soccer member clubs - selected as "America's Best Youth Clubs"" by *Soccer America*," said Larry Monaco, president of US Youth Soccer. "It's wonderful to see that this publication continues to recognize the work of our coaches, players and administrators. These clubs are honored for their dedication and efforts to the game. Their recognition provides us with another opportunity to be proud of what our clubs, leagues, State Associations and US Youth Soccer are doing to advance soccer and be 'The Game for All Kids'."

"Selecting America's best youth clubs has become very difficult because of the increasing quality we're seeing nationwide," said Paul Kennedy, Managing Editor of Soccer America Magazine. "As a testament to the depth at all levels, we have expanded our rankings from the best 20 to the best 25 boys and girls clubs."

Soccer America selects the top 25 clubs, based on success of their teams in national youth championships over the last three years and national recognition for players (including US Youth Soccer ODP Interregional All-Stars, U.S. national youth team selections and NSCAA/adidas Youth All-Americans and) from these clubs in 2007.

Boys Top 25

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| 1. Dallas Texans* | North Texas |
| 2. Chicago Magic | Illinois |
| 3. Arsenal FC* | California South |
| 4. Real So Cal* | California South |
| 5. Schulz Academy | Florida |
| 6. FC Delco | Eastern Pennsylvania |
| 7. Baltimore Bays* | Maryland |
| 8. Sockers SC | Illinois |
| 9. Michigan Wolves* | Michigan |
| 10. FC Greater Boston Bolts | Massachusetts |
| 11. CASL Elite | North Carolina |
| 12. PDA | New Jersey |
| 13. Solar FC | North Texas |
| 14. FC Milwaukee | Wisconsin |
| 15. Bethesda SC | Maryland |
| 16. Valley United* | California South |

17. Team Ohio FC	Ohio South
18. Concorde Fire	Georgia
19. Vardar SC	Michigan
20. Andromeda*	North Texas
21. Real Colorado*	Colorado
22. Nomads SC	California South
23. Scott Gallagher	Missouri
24. Javanon*	Kentucky
25. LAFC	California South
25. New York Red Bulls	New York East

Girls Top 25

1. Eclipse Select*	Illinois
2. Dallas Texans*	North Texas
3. Slammers FC*	California South
4. PDA	New Jersey
5. So Cal Blues*	California South
6. Irvine Strikers SC	California South
7. McLean Premier Soccer*	Virginia
8. Sting Royal*	North Texas
9. Carmel United*	Indiana
10. Real Colorado*	Colorado
11. San Diego Surf	California South
12. Edmond SC	Oklahoma
13. World Class	New Jersey
14. Michigan Hawks	Michigan
15. Colorado Rush*	Colorado
16. Arsenal FC	California South
17. St. Louis SC*	Missouri
18. Bloomfield Force*	Michigan
19. Eagles SC*	California South
20. Pleasanton Rage	California North
21. Real So Cal	California South
22. Freestate SA	Maryland
23. Bethesda SC	Maryland
24. Mustang Soccer	California North
25. Internationals SC	Ohio North

* US Youth Soccer National Champions at least once from 2005-2007

"I would like to thank Soccer America for noticing the hard work that youth clubs around the country are putting into their programs. This truly is an honor for the Dallas Texans Soccer Club players, parents and coaches. An accomplishment like this will help soccer clubs, such as the Texans, to attract more serious soccer players and more dedicated parents," said Hassan Nazari, founder and director of the Dallas Texans. "What I like the most about this honor is that it does not only recognize the wins and losses, but it looks at the development of the youth player. Being successful in the US Youth Soccer National Championships Series and constantly producing and developing youth players for the state and regional US Youth Soccer ODP teams as well as the national and college teams will help our club to be noticed. Once again, on behalf of the Dallas Texans coaching staff, players, parents and volunteers, I would like to thank *Soccer America* for this great honor."

"Having Soccer America recognize the Eclipse Select as the top female club in the nation two years in a row is truly a top honor. This tribute speaks to the great work ethic and dedication of our staff, players, and parents," Rory Dames, Eclipse Select Director of Coaching and Player Development said. "On behalf of the club, we thank US Youth Soccer for their continued support of premier youth girls soccer; having them recognize Eclipse as the No. 1 club in the nation two years in a row is at the top of our resume! Congratulations and thank you to the many

individuals that have made back-to-back No. 1 rankings a reality for the Eclipse Select Soccer Club."

"Soccer America's acknowledgement further solidifies US Youth Soccer's position as the leader in providing player development opportunities through programs such as the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series and the US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program," said Jim Cosgrove, executive director of US Youth Soccer. "The storied National Championships Series is second to none and US Youth Soccer ODP continues to lead the nation in elite player identification and development. No where is that more evident than through the training and competitions that our US Youth Soccer ODP teams participate in each year that provide the finest in elite play and development."

Annually the US Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program serves as the resource for selection to national teams, collegiate programs and professional leagues for our country's finest players. Established in 1977, it is the original Olympic development program in the United States. Formed to identify a pool of players in each age group from which a National Team could be selected for international competition, selected players are exposed to the nation's top coaches from collegiate institutions, U.S. Soccer and the professional leagues. The only national program, US Youth Soccer ODP has been the common thread of success for those selected to U.S. Soccer National Teams, top collegiate programs and Major League Soccer.

The US Youth Soccer National Championship Series is the country's most prestigious national youth soccer tournament, providing approximately 185,000 players on over 10,000 teams from US Youth Soccer State Associations the opportunity to showcase their soccer skills against the best competition in the nation while emphasizing teamwork, discipline and fair play. The Series cap a yearlong series of competitions for boys and girls teams in multiple age brackets as teams earn their way from the top teams in their state to the regional championship tournaments. Annually the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series provides the nation's top collegiate coaches with the premier stage to identify and scout the most coveted players in the country.

Additional highlights and reviews of each of the above clubs are listed on Soccer America's website. To read about the [girls](#) or [boys](#) clubs click the link.

For more information on US Youth Soccer and any of the programs offered please visit www.USYouthSoccer.org. For more information about Soccer America please visit www.SoccerAmerica.com.