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THREE LAFC BOYS TEAMS REACH THE FINAL OF THE PRESTIGIOUS DALLAS CUP; UNDER-13 AND UNDER-14 TEAMS TAKE TOURNAMENT TITLES

Pasadena, CA (April 5, 2010) – Bolstering its credentials as one of the best boys’ soccer programs in the U.S. and internationally, LAFC sent three of the five teams it entered into the final of the Dallas Cup last week with two of the teams winning titles. The two other teams reached the semifinals.

No other club in the tournament, which drew powerhouse teams from around the world in age groups ranging from under 13 to under 19, matched this performance. In the under-13 age group, LAFC made history, becoming the first club in the event’s 31-year history to field both finalists as LAFC defeated LAFC Black.

LAFC captured the under-14 division. LAFC teams in the under-15 and under-19 divisions reached the semifinals, narrowly losing both games. The LAFC boys program ranks sixth in the U.S.

The Dallas Cup is among the world’s most prestigious tournaments. This year’s event included national and club teams from the U.S., England, South Africa, Japan, Mexico, Germany, China, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Venezuela and Brazil.

“The performance of our teams shows the development of our program and where it’s headed,” said Ted Chronopoulos, vice president of soccer operations for LAFC. “This is one of the world’s biggest, most diverse tournaments and our teams represented LAFC with heart and integrity. Our reputation is growing not only because of our success but the attacking, entertaining style that our teams play and the way that we handle ourselves off the field.”

On its way to the under-13 championship, LAFC – ranked first in the country in different age groups for much of the past two years -- outscored six leading Mexican, British and American squads, including LAFC Black, by an astonishing 45-0. “The team continues to separate itself from the competition,” said Chronopoulos. “It isn’t just winning but winning by big margins against top teams. It possesses a rare combination of skill, toughness and athleticism. The Black team was also impressive with its superb technical abilities and tenacity.”

In the under-14 division, LAFC bested a massive 32-team draw, surrendering just two goals in six games to finish undefeated. LAFC beat teams from Texas and Mexico before topping California rival West Coast FC in the final.

The under-15 team reached the semifinals before losing 1-0 to Eintracht Frankfurt, despite controlling play against the celebrated German club. Along the way, LAFC defeated a development squad from Major League Soccer’s Chicago Fire and tied a good team from Monterrey, Mexico. The U-19 team won three games and tied one before losing a close semifinal. The team’s performance was remarkable given the quality of the field, which included some of the country’s best development academy teams.

“Our club has been the talk of U.S. soccer,” said Don Sheppard, LAFC’s founder and president. “Other teams were coming to watch our teams play and it was largely because we play beautiful, exciting soccer.”

LAFC is the beneficiary of the nonprofit LAFC Foundation. It has become one of America’s largest and most prominent club soccer organizations. For more information, please visit www.lafcsoccer.com.