

Media Release 0935
25 September 2009

Nepean Hotspurs Soccer Club Announces Senior Transitional Elite Program (STEP)

The Nepean Hotspurs Soccer Club are pleased to announce the launch of a new program to aid in the development of youth soccer players. The Senior Transitional Elite Program (STEP) will provide an avenue for selected players to advance their soccer skills at the highest level of training and fitness.

“We are very excited about this program,” said Nepean Hotspurs Club Head Coach Boris Bajagic (CSA National “A” License) “This program has been in development for the past 7 months and we are pleased to launch it this fall with a good group of core players.”

The STEP program was developed with 3 main goals in mind: 1.To provide a program for players graduating from the Hotspurs Youth Academy, who wish to continue to develop, train and play at an elite level; 2.To provide a program designed to prepare players who are interested in pursuing soccer at the Collegiate, University or Adult Competitive levels; and 3. To provide an opportunity for players to be showcased in major tournaments which are focused on the recruitment of players for post secondary educational opportunities, including Scholarship opportunities.

Designing the STEP program has been a working collaboration between Nepean Hotspurs Soccer Club Technical Staff Coach Duane Barker (CSA National “B” License), and Maria Karadkis, B. Social Sc. (Honours) in Leisure Studies, under the overall direction of Boris Bajagic.

“I am extremely pleased to be able to roll out the STEP program” said Duane Barker (CSA National “B” License). “This program demonstrates the Hotspurs continuing commitment to the ongoing development of our young athletes as they graduate from our youth programs. The players will be under intensive training, and we are already looking forward to our first tournament in North Carolina in early December.”

In addition to the CASL tournament in North Carolina, STEP participants will be given the opportunity to participate in a selection of tournaments across Ontario, Canada and specific areas of the United States.

About Senior Transitional Elite Program (STEP)

The STEP Program has been a working collaboration between Duane Barker (CSA National "B" License) coach, and Maria Karadakis, B.Social Sc. (Honors) in Leisure Studies, under the overall direction of Boris Bajagic (CSA National "A" License). In designing the program, Duane and Maria consulted with Mr. David Benning, Technical Program Manager of the Canadian Soccer Association & former Glen Shields Club Head Coach, and Mr. Deesh Bhattal, (CSA National "B" License), former U.S. Olympic Development Program (ODP) coach, and current Technical Director /Director of International Sports Academy for Glen Shields Soccer Club.

STEP Program participants will receive technical and tactical instruction from all of the aforementioned coaches along with other members of the Nepean Hotspurs Soccer

Club Technical Staff, including Adam Knight (OSA Provincial “B” License) and Kingsley Knight (CSA National “B” License). In addition STEP participants will benefit from access to complimentary development programs and consultation with experts specializing in the fields of strength & conditioning, and injury treatment & recovery. Players participating in the STEP program are committed to the program for 10 months (Oct 2009 – Aug 2010)

In order to ensure the best possible environment for our members, the Nepean Hotspurs strictly complies with OSA policies regarding coach certification and volunteer screening. For further information, please email the Hotspurs office at info@hotspurs.on.ca , or telephone us at 613-723-5762.

The Nepean Hotspurs Soccer Club was founded in 1970. Proudly promoting the “beautiful game”, the Nepean Hotspurs Soccer Club provides inclusive soccer programs for all age groups and skill levels. A full service, community based soccer club, the Nepean Hotspurs serve a large geographical area in Ottawa’s western and southern areas.

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***The Nepean Hotspurs Soccer Club
1970 – 2010
40 Years of Community Service***