



**2008 PSA WORLD YOUTH TOURNAMENT (BOYS UNDER-16)
PREMIER SOCCER ACADEMIES CAMPUS – LORAIN, OH
MATCHDAY 8 – Aug. 17, 2008**

FINAL

Rush Select XI 2, Blackburn Rovers 1 (OT)

Blackburn goal – Tom Hitchcock (10th minute). Saves – Josh Swann 4.

Rush Select XI goals – Cole Chapleski (7th minute), Zachary Portillos-Grant (85th minute). Saves – Roberto Perez 6.

Shots – Blackburn 12, Rush Select XI 9.

Lineups – **Rush Select XI:** Roberto Perez, Zachary Davis, Tadd Kilmer (Matt Kerridge, 55th minute), Jared Roberts, Trey Saunders III (Joseph Chabries, 71st minute), Zachary Portillos-Grant, Kenneth Tribett (Jonathan Edelman, 96th minute), Alex Vaughan (Richard Diaz, 75th minute), Cole Chapleski, Paolo Delpiccolo, Zach Foxhoven.

Blackburn Rovers: Josh Swann, Phil Jones (Kieran Cahill, 93rd minute), Matthew Pearson, Alex Billington, Will James (Reece Hands, 63rd minute), Tom Murray, Jordan Bowen, Gearoid Morrissey, Tom Donegan, Jadan Hall (Micah Evans, 41st minute), Tom Hitchcock.

THIRD-PLACE MATCH

Chile U16 National Team 1, Venezuela U16 National Team 0

Chile goal – Cristian Contreras (47th minute). Saves – Claudio Santis 2.

Venezuela saves – Jesus Escalona 2.

Shots – Chile 10, Venezuela 5.

Lineups – **Chile:** Claudio Santis, Juan Gomez, Mario Parra, Matias Navarrete, Claudio Sepulveda, Alex Gonzalez, Gustavo Ramirez, Cesar Valenzuela, Santiago Dittborn, Alvaro Ramos (Frank Fernandez, 62nd minute; Piero Garate, 77th minute), Cristian Contreras (Erick Mora, 72nd minute).

Venezuela: Jesus Escalona, Alexander Gonzalez (Euclides Guerrero, 50th minute), Carlos Rivero, Cesar Cedeno, Carlos Suarez, Luis Sadovnic (William Matos, 58th minute), Raigel Marquez (Joseff Martinez, 77th minute), Josmar Zambrano, Yorman Suarez, Alejandro Valero, Fernando Aristeguieta (Paul Perales, 64th minute).

CHAMPIONSHIP DAY RECAP

FINAL: Rush Select XI 2, Blackburn Rovers 1 (OT)

Brad Friedel's inaugural Premier Soccer Academies World Youth Tournament trophy will stay in the United States for at least a year. Left winger Zachary Portillos-Grant's 85th-minute, overtime goal lifted Rush Select XI, representing the Rush Soccer program based in Littleton, Colo., to victory over the U16 academy team of English

Premier League club Blackburn Rovers in Sunday's thrilling, 100-minute World Youth Tournament final at the PSA Campus in Lorain, Ohio.

"I look at this as the biggest event we've ever won," Rush Select XI coach and Rush Soccer technical director Erik Bushey said. "We're lucky and honored just to be invited here. We're thankful to Brad Friedel for allowing us the opportunity. It's a privilege that we don't take lightly.

"Rush Soccer has won 13 or 14 national championships. Here, you're looking at teams from top soccer countries in the world. I got goose bumps just thinking about (playing in the World Youth Tournament). There is no doubt about the class of soccer that was out there. We take great pride in this and we're going to be showcasing it well within Rush Soccer."

Rush Soccer is a national club program, fielding over 33,000 players across 21 clubs in 19 states, but used a pure Colorado connection to score the winning goal. Denver resident Paolo Delpiccolo's set piece was not properly cleared by Blackburn's defense, allowing Golden, Colo. resident Matt Kerridge to win the ball, push it to the end line on the left and square it with pace across the top of the 6-yard box.

Aurora, Colo. resident Portillos-Grant, one of nine Colorado-based players in the World Youth Tournament squad, used his first touch to score his second goal of the tournament inside the right goalpost.

"It actually went between both defenders' legs to get to me and I just tried to make sure I got good contact with the ball. It was a really good play by Matty," Portillos-Grant said. "This (championship) ranks the highest. We're playing against teams that we've heard about and watched on television. I think, coming in, we were underestimated. Everybody was talking about, 'Watch for this team and that team.' We showed everybody that they should watch us."

Added Kerridge: "This is a once-in-a-lifetime thing, that I will play against all of these countries. It means a lot. We proved to a lot of people who think U.S. soccer is not that good that we can play."

Rush was forced to play a man down for the final 13 minutes of overtime (two 10-minute periods, not sudden death) but the best Blackburn could do in that time was post two shots, one of which narrowly missed the right post in the 95th minute off the right foot of Rovers striker Tom Hitchcock from 15 yards, straight away.

Hitchcock scored all four of Blackburn's goals in the tournament (tying him with Rush Select's Zach Foxhoven for most goals scored in the World Youth Tournament), the last coming in the 10th minute. Alex Billington's right-side corner kick ran long to Tom Donegan, who drove the ball hard into the top of the 6-yard box, where Hitchcock stood to redirect the ball into the net past Rush goalkeeper Roberto Perez (six saves).

Rush Select opened the scoring in the seventh minute. Trey Saunders headed Delpiccolo's free kick 35 yards out from the back post across the face of the goal for Cole Chapleski (Broomfield, Colo.) to poke his second tournament goal into the net.

"They were always dangerous," said Terry McPhillips, coach of academy club for Blackburn, for which Brad Friedel spent the past eight years as the first team goalkeeper before transferring to Aston Villa on July 26. "I give the Rush Select team from Colorado great praise for making it hard for us. I thought that their coach had them well organized.

“If you speak to the boys, they’ve had a fantastic time this week. I like the facility and we’ve been well looked after. The whole experience has been a different class. We don’t normally get to play these type of games.”

3RD-PLACE MATCH: Chile U16 National Team 1, Venezuela U16 National Team 0

Chile, the team that the consensus of the World Youth Tournament’s players and coaches believed to be the field’s most skilled, attractive side, earned third place with a 47th minute goal to down its South American counterparts in a matchup of the tournament’s two U16 national teams.

Cristian Contreras, who plays domestically with Colo Colo, scored his second goal of the tournament in linking onto Alvaro Ramos’ right-side cross with an open header atop the 6-yard box that skimmed off the left goal post and into the net.

A scoreless first half, played mostly between the penalty areas among two teams that play the same style, gave way to increased the pressure and possession that has been typical with Chile as Venezuela only mounted two shots in the final 40 minutes.

Chile won three of its four matches in the tournament, tied Rush Select XI for most goals scored in the tournament with 11 and only conceded two.

“I think we are the (World Youth Tournament) team that plays the game best, but our goal was to play for the championship,” Chile coach Cesar Vaccia said. “In soccer, that happens. That’s why everybody likes soccer all over the world, because it is so unpredictable. If we are invited again, we will try to win the tournament.”