



23rd ANNUAL SEA CUP TOURNAMENT



ANZA Soccer Contingent Finishes Second

On the 27th and 28th of February ANZA Soccer, as a member of the South East Asia Youth Soccer Organization, hosted the annual SEA Cup Tournament held at the Singapore Sports School, Innova Junior College and the Singapore National Stadium. The tournament featured U-13, U-15 and U-18 contingents from the Bangkok Soccer League, Jakarta Youth Soccer and Kuala Lumpur Youth Soccer.



Kuala Lumpur swept all age categories, and finished as Overall Winner. Singapore, by virtue of head-to-head play, squeaked out Jakarta for second place, with Bangkok finishing in fourth place, which did not reflect their highly effective level of competition.



The ANZA U-18s, led by Coach Nick Czolka, lost only to a very finely-tuned team from Kuala Lumpur at the National Stadium, cheered on by a large number of supporters. The match was much closer than that 0-2 scoreline, as Muhamadou Sumareh of KLYS, who had been pestering the ANZA defense and keeper throughout the match, finally scored the clinching goal in the 80th minute while Singapore was pushing forward for the equalizer.

On Sunday, our ANZA U-15s, led by Coach Peter Warburton and Assistant David James, played Kuala Lumpur, also in the National Stadium, for the U-15 Championship, as both had won their two opening matches. After an exciting 0-0 first half with end-to-end play, Andrew Wells struck for KLYS just after half time, forcing ANZA to chase the game. And, as with the U-18s the day before, gave up a second goal when Alando Atkinson found the net at 75 minutes.



ANZA's U-13 team was the youngest team of the tournament, and most inexperienced, with all players in their first SEA Cup Tournament. Coaches Joachim Kehr and Matt Hodgkins let our team through their first experience, and all players are now more than ready for a repeat engagement next year.

Teams from the 3 visiting countries began arriving early Friday afternoon and, after dinner, had registration followed by team, Coaches and Contingent Heads meetings on Friday evening.

On Saturday, the 23rd Annual SEA Cup Gala Dinner was held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Ballroom, with Singapore Football's top technician and coach, Mr Jita Singh in attendance as Guest of Honour. The Guest Speaker was Mr Paul Masefield, best known as a Pundit on ESPN's football programs. Also in attendance were former SEA Cup Coaches Ulli Niedermeyer (1994-1997) and Adun Nasak (2002-



2003), whilst Jamie Reeves (ESPN pundit and SEA Cup Coach 1994-1996) conveyed his regrets. Three of Singapore's former national team players, Ismail Hussain (now ISA Academy), Abdullah Noor (Senior Coach of the U-13s at Singapore Sports School and ANZA Soccer Technical Advisor), and Malek Awab (Singapore's most capped international footballer) helped Jita Singh in unveiling the new Overall SEA Cup Trophy which was donated by ANZA Soccer. Much to the delight of both young

and old in attendance, the dinner event was closed by a performance by The Urban Street Team, a group of professional freestyle footballers.



We would like to thank everyone who was involved with the event for making it a huge success.

Next year's SEA Cup will be held in Kuala Lumpur. ANZA Soccer has already begun planning for the return of the trophies.

FULL DETAILS AND RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

<http://seacup.espzen.com>