

MLS NEXT
[U17 PRIMER]
:: 2020/2021 ::

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Rokas Pukstas	2004	 BARÇA ACADEMY CASA GRANDE, AZ, US	
Kobi Henry	2004		
Zach Booth	2004		
Isaac Calderon	2005		
Aaron Heard	2006		
Axel Havelange	2007	 SAN DIEGO	
Micah Burton	2006		

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Barjung Dabroe	2006		
Korede Osundina	2004		
Alex Perez	2006		
Damian Alguera	2004		
Rafael Avalos	2004		
Jack Brown	2006		
Evan Rotundo	2004		

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Beau Yantz	2004		
Niko Kontinos	2005		
George Medill	2004		
Justin Enamorado	2006		
AJ Pama	2004		
Luciano Natoli	2004		
Gabriel Enriquez	2005		

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Ryan Rivas	2006		
Tatenda Chigede	2004		
Jacob Thao	2004		
Perry Blay	2005		
Cullen Connakerr	2005		
Sho Luke Haggerty	2006		
Cooper Lijewski	2005		

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Oliver Kelly	2005		
Ian Shaul	2004		
Ivan Torres	2005		
Jay Sonthalia	2005		
Terron Williams	2005		
Jack Bowers	2004		
Owen Zarnick	2004		

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Christian Diaz	2006		
Wyatt Erber	2004		
Christopher Jaime	2004		



F C D A L L A S

There is not much left to be said about the FC Dallas Academy that has not already been said. They continue to recruit, develop, promote and highlight youth at every level, constantly forcing prospects to play in uncomfortable situations, naturally accelerating maturity. The culture continues in 20/21 with a new, hungry crop of mostly 2005s ready to take the league by storm. Despite mixed results, for FC Dallas standards (5 wins, 1 lose, 2 draws in 19/20), the 2005 class might be one of the deepest yet, especially when combined with some of the top 2006s along with some vital leadership from some 2004s.

Everything will likely revolve around Diego Hernandez (2005) the attacking midfielder who has already seen the pitch for North Texas SC. Hernandez prefers to play at the attacking midfield role just behind the solitary #9. Hernandez is constantly playing with his head up and looking to slip the FC Dallas wingers or #9s in behind. Lets talk about those attacking pieces shall we.

Jose Gutierrez (2004) started all but one match at this level last year. The former Dallas Texans product was more of a complimentary piece last season but could see an increased role. He'll have some stiff competition on the wing in the form of Anthony Ramirez (2005), Emanuel Radilla (2005), Christopher Sanchez (2005) & young gun Kristian Kelley (2006). Kr. Kelley is a dynamic left sided winger who prefers to drift in a let fly. The one to watch here will be Kevin Kelley (2005). The former FC Barcelona and PSG Academy product battled injuries throughout last season, but his class is evident. He can play on either wing or as a false #9. Ke. Kelley has incredible work rate, foot speed, and powerful right foot. Ramirez is elite on the ball!

Behind the front four will be Jordan Jones (2005). The USYNT box-to-box midfielder has excellent timing with his tackles/passing. Jared Aguilar (2004) & Santiago Ferreira (2004) will provide leadership to this young side. Unlike his brother Ferreira prefers to play deep on the pitch and pull the strings. Ivan Villatoro (2004) is an option at the #6 but found minutes hard to come by. Cesar Elizalde was slotted over to left back in 19/20 and would be an option here but he is moving to the Urqs. Matthew Corcoran (2006) will likely be the starter.

Antonio Carrera (2004) leads the backline. Carrera's been involved with North Texas, and has legit interest from a number of top Bundesliga clubs. Victor Gomez (2005), Aaron Salinas (2005) and Julian Eyestone (2006) are more than capable if Carrera is not available. Ty Reynolds (2004) and Nolan Norris (2005) will start on the right and left respectively while Jonathan Dadzie (2004), William Baker (2004), Carlos Sanchez (2005), Gabriel Blandon (2006) fight Adrian Anguiano (2005) and Pranav DuBroff (2005) who will be the likely starters.

STAR MAN

Diego Hernandez :: 2005 :: AM
Insanely talented attacker can play in a number of forward positions. Has seen time with North Texas throughout the summer as one of the youngest players in USL.

ALUMNI

- Victor Ulloa (1992) FC Cincinnati
- Kellyn Acosta (1995) Colorado Rapids
- Emerson Hyndman (1996) Atlanta FC
- Reggie Cannon (1998) FC Dallas
- Weston McKennie (1998) FC Schalke
- Paxton Pomykal (1999) FC Dallas
- Chris Richards (2000) Bayern Munich



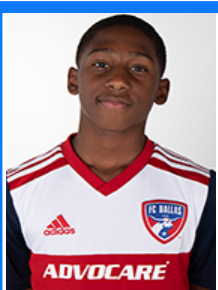
TALISMAN

Antonio Carrera :: (2004) :: GK
Shot-stopping extraordinaire has started 12 matches for the Dallas Urqs last season who has also been training with North Texas. Carrera is receiving heavy interest from a number of top Champions League Bundesliga academies. Don't be surprised to see Carrera with the Urqs.



TOP PROSPECT

Kristian Kelley :: 2006 :: LW
Dynamic left sided winger enjoys the ball at his feet. He is dangerous coming in from the wing and striking the ball with his right. Returned to Dallas from a stint in Spain with Villarreal.





PHILADELPHIA UNION

Few teams have made a bigger investment in their academy over the last two years than the Union. It has paid off.

The success of Mark McKenzie and Brendan Aaronson is not a fluke, and underscores the importance of recruitment and promotion of youth players into a professional environment. Union II serves as a launch pad for most of the Union academy brightest stars. Union II is currently home to 2003s Anton Sorenson, Dante Huckaby, Selmir Miscic, Jack McGlynn, Paxten Aaronson, Patrick Bohui, Jack Jasinski & Caden Stafford as well as U17 eligible 2004s Brandon Craig & Quinn Sullivan. Craig is on the verge of a professional deal and Sullivan seems likely to see more and more minutes with Union II.

The U17s will rely on the next crop of prospects led by an experienced backline of Ryan Lau (2004), Samuel Jones (2004), Jackson Gillman (2004), and Samuel Fenton (2004). Gillman started all 14 matches and will serve as the leader in this squad. Lau is a talented left back but will be pushed by Miles Hood (2005). Luke Martelli (2005) and Robert Myrick (2005) provide solid coverage.

In net Owen Moore (2004) will start if he remains with this age group. Moore started all 13 matches he participated in.

Brandon Craig is an option along the back line or in the midfield but has looked impressive with Union II and will likely continue playing up.

Longtime Union academy stalwarts Ian Abbey (2004) and Logan Oliver (2005) provide guile in the midfield and will allow a stable of talented attackers to reek havoc.

A trio of 2005 forwards Nelson Pierre, Dominic Dubon & Marcelo Mazzola combined for 34 goals in 19/20. Pierre played up with the U17s exclusively last year, and despite playing up two years was able to use his impressive frame to get into dangerous positions both as the center forward or out on the right wing. Dubon is considered by some within the Union academy to be the most impressive of the bunch. He has excellent movement off the ball and has scored some truly amazing goals from outside the box. Mazzola's presence allows Pierre and Dubon room wide to create and move off the ball.

Amongst all the attacking talent in the Union academy Gael Medrano (2006) might be their brightest star. The 2006 striker will factor in as a key figure for the U17s.



STAR MAN

Nelson Pierre :: 2005 :: W

Powerful attacker can play on the RW and as a #9, has been consistently playing up within the Union Academy for two years. He was a major factor for the U17s last season play in 12 of 15 games, netting 2.



TALISMAN

Jackson Gillman :: 2004 :: D

Few players have been as reliable in the Union set up over the last three years. Gillman provides the type of leadership needed in an academy that is as fluid with its player movement.



TOP PROSPECT

Angel Maroyga :: 2006 :: F

Major coup when he was brought in from Michigan Jaguars last year. Won the Golden Boot at Concacaf SCCL-U13 tournament. Will be a major player at the #9 for the 17s despite the bevy of talent.

ALUMNI

- Derrick Jones (1997) Nashville SC
- Auston Trusty (1998) Colorado Rapids
- Matt Freese (1998) - Philadelphia Union
- Mark McKenzie (1999) - Philadelphia Union
- Brendan Aaronson (2000) - Philadelphia Union
- Jack de Vries (2002) Philadelphia Union
- Paxton Aaronson (2003) Philadelphia Union





NEW YORK RED BULLS

The 20/21 U17 iteration of the NYRB will be lead by a strong, experienced backline, anchored by Liam Winograd (2004). After moving from Cedar Stars in 19/20, Winograd started in every NYRB U17 match last season. He'll be joined by US Youth International JC Cortez (2004), and flanked by a pair of dynamic attacking fullback in Curtis Ofori (2005) and Erick Ruiz (2005) on the left and right respectively. Both Ofori and Ruiz have high ceilings and could see time with the U19s. Look for Adan Franco (2004), Andrew Barclay (2005) and Nicholas Sanchez (2005) to push for minutes. Jackson ten Oever (2005) would be a surefire starter on any other U17 backline in the nation but will have to fight for minutes in 20/21.

Cirian Dalton (2004) is one of the more underrated goalkeepers in the US Youth pool and will be pushed by Dreni Idrizi (2005). Dalton has trained with the U19s and could see time up a level.

Speaking of the U19s, three names are noticeably absent from this roster. Three of the top NYRB prospects are 2004's Dantouma Toure, Kenan Hot and Max Andrews all of which will primarily be with the U19s, if not the USL. All three are age eligible and would instantly make the NYRB the top side in the nation.

Key to the success of this squad could be from the play of its youngest members, Bento Estrela (2006) & Darsein Gabriel (2005). Estrela and Gabriel are versatile midfielders who can be play the #6, #8 & #10. Estrela will likely start as the #6, with Gabriel playing ahead of him. Estrela has a good frame and footballing IQ that allows him to compete physically and mentally at a high level. Gabriel could also see minutes with the U19s. Ezra Widman (2005), Nico Beninda (2004) and Eli Conway (2004) will also be factors in the midfield.

Despite missing Toure and Hot, the attack is well balanced. Jackson Hopkins will lead the line along with the dynamic Nico Rabiú (2004) who can play both on the right wing or up top. Luciano Sanchez (2005) will also play a major role. USYNT U15 attacker and potential NYRB homegrown target Serge Ngoma will likely spend a majority of his time with the U19 & NYRB II in 20/21. Luke Ayaz (2005) showed flashes in 19/20 as did Leonard Aviles (2006). Aviles is the next hot-shot NYRB youth attacking prospect. Young talent does not stop there for the U17 NYRB, Andrew Jean-Baptiste (2006) has the physical tools and goal scoring ability to play at this level, while Patrick Shaw has netted an impressive 38 goals over the last two season for NYRB U14 & U15 sides.



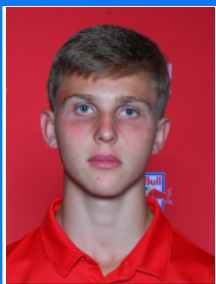
STAR MAN

Curtis Ofori :: 2005 :: LB

Ofori is a good bet to play a significant amounts of minutes at the U19 level as he is a dominant left-back. He is a composed defender, quick on and off the ball. His pace allows him to get forward without compromising his defensive responsibilities.

ALUMNI

- Juan Agudelo (1992) Inter Miami CF
- Sean Davis (1993) New York Red Bulls
- Matt Miazga (1995) Chelsea FC
- Derrick Etienne (1996) - Columbus Crew
- Tyler Adams (1999) - RB Leipzig
- Chris Gloster (2000) PSV Eindhoven
- John Tolkin (2002) New York Red Bulls



TALISMAN

Liam Winograd :: 2004 :: CB

Tidy central defender who comfortable playing with the ball at his feet. He is an intelligent passer and a mature, responsible tackler.



TOP PROSPECT

Darsein Gabriel :: 2005 :: DM

Gabriel had a break-out season with the NYRB U15s last season. The defensive midfielder is already being looked at by U19 staff as an option for this upcoming season.





ATLANTA UNITED

Few clubs have recruited nationally as well as Atlanta. They go two (and sometimes three) deep at most positions. Many players boost international experience.

In 19/20 Dagoberito Romero split time with the talent Vincente Reyes (2003) in net. Reyes graduates a level but Romero will be pushed by Elijah Buford (2005) and Kristian Hernandez (2005). Romero should solidify himself as one of the top 2004 keepers in the nation.

Romero will be protected by one of the more experienced defenses in the nation. Nigel Prince (2004) will anchor the back-line. The physical right footed centerback who despite an impressive frame has excellent posture when squaring up opponents. Noah Cobb (2005) will likely pair with Prince. Cobb is comfortable with the ball at either of his feet. Caleb Wiley (2004) has shown well in his minutes with ATL II in USL this summer. Wiley is arguably the top 2004 left back in the country. Remi Okunola (2005) and Bryan Cassanova (2004) will compete for time at right back. Elijah Leslie (2005), Rohan Blackwell (2004), David Garcia (2004), Ty Nero (2005) in the center and Anderson Cruz (2005) will spell Wiley time on the left. Tyrell Moore (2006) is a top defensive talent.

Brendan Lambe (2004) will reprise his role as #6 for the U17s in 20/21. Lambe was a revelation for Atlanta after moving from NCFC a year ago. Lambe was typically played closer to the attack, but his work-rate and ability to disrupt play and unbalance a defense after winning a ball impressed Atlanta staff. Mathieu Brick (2005) filled this role for the U15s in 19/20. Brick can also play along the back line. Recent Atlanta homegrown signing Efrain Morales is also age eligible but word is he will see little time with the U17s. He is another option at the #6 or in either center-back role. Pavel Romero (2006) is a highly talented U15 that could get playing time.

Ahead of Lambe will be Owen Wolff (2004). Unlike his brother (and father), Owen is a more box-to-box prospect who enjoys navigating through traffic in the middle of the pitch. Luke Brennan (2005) and Johann Chirinos (2005) will also see time at the #8. Atlanta will likely play with either Alan Carleton (2005) or Jonathan Villal (2005) at the #10. Carleton is more of a play-maker, will Villal is more of a game-breaker. Mateo Bargagna (2004) is another skilled midfielder to watch.

The talent 2005 triumvirate of Daniel Sebhatu (2005), Ty Wilson (2005) and Italo Jenkins (2005) will bring their terrorizing pace, power and skill to the U17 division. Wilson is a speed merchant on the right, while Jenkins has the power and frame to be a game changing #9. Sebhatu is maybe the most well rounded prospect. Banis Smith (2005) will be a weapon and Andy Sullins (2004) is a tall, skilled left footed striker who could be poised for a breakout season at this level. Riley Cullum (2004) started a majority of the matches for the U17 last season and will compete for a starting role. Barca Academy product Gabriel Enriquez (2005) is another piece.



STAR MAN

Brendan Lambe :: 2004 :: DM

The NCFC product transitioned to Atlanta last offseason and quickly made himself an integral part of the U17 midfield. Lambe can play as a #6 or #8, but seems best deployed at the 6. He has a tremendous motor and good game instincts which allow him to compete at a high level throughout a match.

ALUMNI

- Andrew Carleton (2000) Indy Eleven
- Chris Goslin (2000) - Soduva
- Jackson Conway (2001) Atlanta United 2
- George Campbell (2001) Atlanta United 2
- George Bello (2002) Atlanta United
- Tyler Wolff (2003) Atlanta United
- Efrain Morales (2004) Atlanta United



TALISMAN

Caleb Wiley :: 2004 :: LB

Wiley is exactly what the ATL brass was looking for when they started the Academy in 2016. He's played for the club at U12, U14, U15, U16/17, and most recently USL level. He is a plus defender who would benefit from playing with this side to gain comfort with the ball/attack.



TOP PROSPECT

Daniel Sebhatu :: 2005 :: F

Highly touted 2005 attacker does not have the pace of Ty Wilson, or the strength of Italo Jenkins but is a natural goal scorer with silky touch on the ball and instincts. Sebhatu can be deployed at any position in the attack and be a difference maker.





L AFC

They're officially here. For years we watched the talented, although young squad, tear through the DA, often playing up a level. You know the names.

Central defender Antonio Leone (2004), right back Erik Duenas (2004) & striker Christian Torres (2004) became the clubs first homegrown signings in July. But it doesn't end there.

L AFC was tireless in their recruitment of the top 2004/2005/2006 talent since in their inception. The 20/21 U17 side highlights the fruits of their labor. L AFC are nearly two deep at every position.

It is highly unlikely we see Leone & Duenas at this level, however both are lockdown defenders. Leone is both as mentally and physically mature a player as any at the youth level. Duenas is a tireless right back with good soccer instincts. Likewise, Torres has little left to prove at the U17 level. His 11 goals led the team, but it is his ability to check back and hold onto the ball which opens up spaces for Favian Vazquez (2004), Nathan Ordaz (2004) & Aldahir Rua (2004) to run into open spaces behind the defense. Alixon Soukup (2005), Robert Willcot (2005) and JR Verastegui (2005) will also factor in. Soukup and Willcot add dynamic pace and flair from the left and right wing respectively. Alex Singleton (2006) will be a factor on the left.

Torres will be replaced by Steven Ramirez, a like-for-like replacement at the #9. Ramirez netted 23 times in 16 matches for the L AFC U15s in 19/20 and is considered as bright a talent as Torres was at that level.

Dylan Presto (2004) often plays behind Torres, but is most effective when arriving late into the box. The one to watch in this position will be Diego Ceja (2005) the powerful central midfielder, has an excellent left foot, is good in tight spaces and dictates the pace of a game. Expect him to play in the #10 role for the L AFC U17s.

While the attackers get the plaudits it is Luis Lima (2004), Franco de Luna (2004) & Bryan Moyado (2005) cleaning up the midfield in front of Armando Avila (2004), Duenas or Diego Rosales (2005) on the right.

Donovan Palomares (2004) is the surefire #1 while Harrison Faulkner (2004) & Noah Livingston (2005) more than capable.



STAR MAN

Diego Ceja :: 2005 :: CM
2018 Concacaf U13 Champions League Golden Ball winner has been the focal point for L AFC teams from U12-U15. Ceja has a strong left foot and will be asked to orchestrate the talented L AFC attack.

ALUMNI

- Antonio Leone (2004) - L AFC
- Erik Duenas (2004) - L AFC
- Christian Torres (2004) - L AFC



TALISMAN

Armando Avila :: 2004 :: CB
Leone's long time center back partner will step into a leading role as Leone will likely not play much at this age level. Avila started all 19 games last year from either the RCB or RB position.



TOP PROSPECT

Javen Romero :: 2006 :: DM
Gifted left footed defender received multiple calls ups to the U15s late last season. With the loss of Beau Yantz to Pateadores, Romero could find himself in the mix on the L AFC U17 backline. He's more comfortable at the LCB spot could see time at LB.





NYCFC

Despite poor results in 19/20, the NYCFC U17 side is poised for a major boost as a majority of the side will return in 20/21. Normally, this would mean the 19/20 U17 squad would be led by a number of 2004s, and while NYCFC has some talent in that age, it is the 2005s that played a sizeable amount throughout the season.

While 2005s (and a specific 2006) will be the focus for this preview, this team starts with Cooper Flax (2004). The Wake Forest commit is the leader in the midfield. Flax has the ability to play at the defensive midfielder role but seems to prefer the box-to-box role. At 6-1 his game translates well as a center-back at the next level due to his ability to read the game and passing abilities. Flax played every minute for the U17s last season and will be asked to provide leadership to a young, yet experience group of players. He will be joined by two supremely talented midfielders in Damon Rouse (2005) and Mark Cajamarca (2006). Rouse, was a revelation at the U17 level last year playing up two years (this will be a theme with NYCFC). Rouse is good in tight spaces, powerful with late runs into the box. Flax-Rouse will play in front of Cajamarca who spent last season exclusively with the U15s. The 2006 has a modern-#6 game. He is poised on the ball unlike many at this level. He pairs his comfort on the ball the ball-winning characteristic needed to play the position at a high level. While not known for his goal scoring, Cajamarca hovers outside the box and is more than capable of a golazo or two.

NYCFC commonly line-up in a 4-4-2 diamond playing two up top with an attack minded midfielder in front of Flax-Rouse-Cajamarca. Jacob Thomas (2004) is capable of playing in this role, along with Mateo Ponce Ocampo (2005), Tyler Morek (2005), Junior Tellez (2005) & Thomas O'Rourke (2006). Up top the U17s will rely on Diego Rossi (2005), Tyler Glassberg (2005), Evan Vilaboy (2005) & Carlo Brown (2005). Rossi & Glassberg saw plenty of time with the U17s in 19/20. Rossi can also pivot into the #10 role, or is dynamic on the LW if they transition to a 4-3-3. Josue Martinez (2006) is an option up top. Watch out for Luke Zielinski (2006), Jonathan Shore (2007) & Joah Reyna (2007).

NYCFC boast a number of talented attacking fullback options including, Jeffrey Vanegas (2005), Dren Dobruna (2005) & Francesco Di Ponzio (2005) on the left and Gabriel Chavez (2005) on the right. Vanegas and Chavez were regulars at the U17 level in 19/20. Dobruna has a high ceiling. Watch out for Kelvin Da Costa (2006). He has immense upside as an attacking wingback.

In the heart of the defense it will be Kamran Acito (2004), David Medina (2005) & Oliver Stafford (2005). They'll set-up in front of Max Pfaffman (2005) or Caleb McNeil (2005).



STAR MAN

Mark Cajamarca :: 2006 :: DM
Elite deep-lying quarterback has been a revelation in multiple national & international tournaments for NYCFC. The 2006 has been consistently playing up a level (or two) and thriving as destroyer and offensive pivot capable playing a line-breaking pass.

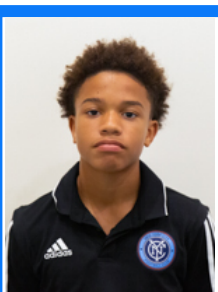
ALUMNI

- James Sands (2000) - NYCFC
- Justin Haak (2001) - NYCFC
- Gio Reyna (2002) Borussia Dortmund
- Joe Scally (2002) Borussia Mochengladbach
- Tayvon Gray (2002) - NYCFC



TALISMAN

Cooper Flax :: 2004 :: CM/D
NYCFC academy stalwart and Wake Forest commit has been a staple on the backline since U12 level. Flax is good in possession and a vocal leader on the field.



TOP PROSPECT

Damon Rouse :: 2005 :: CM
New York SC product was a key figure for the 17s last season. Rouse is an excellent dribbler and good from box-to-box.



INTER MIAMI CF

Year one in the books for the new kids on the block: south beach edition. 19/20 Inter Miami U17 side was securely in a playoff spot prior to the shutdown, however a majority of those pieces will graduate to the U19s and defensive rock Kobi Henry (2004) signed with Orange County SC in USL. The USYNT was an imposing figure and along with Noah Allen (2004) and Logan Batiste (2004) formed the top 2004 backline in the entire nation. Allen (left back) and Batiste (right back/winger) will need to step up in 20/21 and provide the leadership. Both are attacking backs with a penchant for the assist. Batiste can shift into the right wing spot and scored an amazing goal for IMCF against DC United in the GA Cup in 2020.

While Allen and Batiste are terrorizing the flank it will be up to Emilo Rossi (2005) & Mikhail Keise (2005) to anchor central defense. Both were vital to the IMCF U15 success. Rossi, a line-breaking left footed center back, is comfortable initiating offense, while Keise acts as more of a sweeper. If Batiste is deployed on the wing, Israel Boatwright (2005) has more than enough sauce at right back. Kevin Gorbell (2005) will provide cover in the middle, and Nicolas Amaya (2005) can spot Allen time on the left.

IMCF are reliant on a defensive minded #6 that can drop back to support the central defenders as both fullbacks enjoy time up the field. This role will be filled by Marcelo Mandragon (2005) who already has good rapport with Rossi and Keise. Mandragon was often paired with Joseph Convers (2005) and provides another lay of defense. Aran Perez (2004) will see time here as well.

In front of Mandragon and Convers is where it can get really exciting. The pairing allows IMCF to play with a true #10 free from many defensive responsibilities. Kobi Thomas (2005) is very talented playmaker, however it is Axel Perez (2007) who has everyone buzzing. The technically savvy Perez started many of the U15s more important GA Cup matches, and was frequently the most gifted player on the pitch. Playing up two years in something Perez is used to at this point, but there were times where opposing sides could take him out of the game from a physical standpoint, but the talent is evident.

Out wide it will be Felipe Valencia (2005) & Juan Hurtado (2005) on the right and left respectively. Valencia had a breakout summer with Fort Lauderdale CF in USL League One. The quick footed winger, has racked up 3 starts, >200 minutes and one goal in the summer. Pedro Faife (2005) is another intriguing option on the wing. Up front it will be Italo Addimandi (2005) and Carl Laurent (2005) both can reach double digits in the scoring column with the trio of Hurtado-Perez-Valencia behind them.

In goal IMCF brought in Luciano Natoli (2004) the talented Weston FC keeper. He and Mao Diaz (2005) form one of the better goalkeeper duos at this level.



STAR MAN

Felipe Valencia :: 2005 :: RW

Pacy right winger has already made waves with IMCF USL side in League One. Valencia remains listed with the U17 side but do not be surprised if he ages up to the U19s or even signs the 1st IMCF HG deal.

ALUMNI



TALISMAN

Logan Batiste :: 2004 :: RB/RW

In reviewing film it is quickly evident how many role Batiste can fill at a high level. He is a dynamic wide attacker with a nose for goal, however has a chance to be a game-breaking RWB. He is solid defender but will need to improve that aspect of his game before he reaches the pro level.



TOP PROSPECT

Axel Perez :: 2007 :: AM

If you follow the youth soccer landscape you've likely heard of Perez. Perez is one of the top, if not the top prospect in US soccer. Axel has been playing up 2 or 3 age groups for the past two seasons. He was an essential piece of Miami's U15 GA Cup side. Perez is a pure #10 and assist machine.





SPORTING KC

Results tend to deceive in the youth landscape. On paper the SKC U15s & U17s has disappointing 19/20 seasons. Both sides finished mid-table. However SKC remains one of the top academy systems in the nation for a reason. They recruit talent at a young level, push prospects into uncomfortable positions which has shown to lead to well rounded professional players. One thing is evident when breaking down film of SKC, it is difficult to keep track of who's-who. SKC has adopted the philosophy that strong professional should play multiple positions at a young age level. This helps develop players with a high overall-footballing IQ and understanding of the specific system the professional team deploys. While this has shown to be beneficial in the end it certainly leads to mixed results and mistakes at the youth level. Wingers lining up as fullback, attacking midfielders in the destroying/holding role, strikers on the wing, are just a few of the consistent changes seen for SKC at the U15 & U17 levels.

20/21 should be no different. SKC has collected a significant amount of depth in the 04/05/06 class. Top of that list is Osvaldo Cisneros (2004). The Nebraska-native was the captain for the U17s when he wasn't playing up with the U19s. The attacking midfielder is elusive on the ball and works hard from the #10 role. It is highly doubtful he sees any time at the U17 level. Behind Cisneros is another elite prospect in Ryan Reid (2006). The diminutive creative midfielder reads the game two steps ahead putting himself and often his wingers in excellent attacking positions. Reid also finds himself on the scoresheet. Jack Lucas (2004), Nicholas Pendleton (2005), Gianluca Armellino (2005), Manuel Romero (2005) provide support along with Jayvin Van Deventer (2004) the U17 holding player. Van Deventer was one of the few players who maintain his role (#6) throughout the year. Edgar Bazan (2006) is a name to watch as either a #6 or #8.

Where things get interesting for SKC is on the outside. Gage Akalu (2005) is an elite winger. The USYNT has oozes flair and break-away speed. Akalu start on the right, while the left will be manned by Daniel Gutierrez (2004). Gutierrez can also slot into the #8 or #10 role. He started 13 matches in 19/20. Kelly Kipruto (2005), Akalu is an exciting player in open space. Kipruto and fellow left-footed wide player Braxton Arpachinda (2005) split time at LW/LB throughout the season. While SKC will get plenty of production from the wide players, they lack a true #9. Dalton Visconti (2004), Salat Mukoma (2004), Zamere Issaka (2004) all possess the physical tools to be a consistent goal threat at this level, but non have found any consistency.

SKC will rely heavily on the partnership of Jack Sartino (2004) & Nati Clarke in central defense. Sartino and Clarke are natural leaders, both often captained their sides in 19/20. Ex-FC Dallas center back George Medill is an interesting piece and could allow Clarke to shift to the right back spot. Matthew Fisher was a key member of the U15 side and can play at multiple position on the back line as well as a #6/#8. Left back will likely be a combination of the aforementioned Kipruto/Arpachinda, Thomas Jerrigan (2004) is also an option. Javier Zaragoza (2005) is an imposing presence in net and will be back-up by the impressive Misael Mena (2006).



STAR MAN

Nati Clarke :: 2005 :: RB/CB

Athletic defender can play out on the right on in the center of defense. Good in the air and with the ball at his feet. USYNT has been fast-tracked as a likely HG candidate.

ALUMNI

- Jon Kempin (1993) Columbus Crew
- Daniel Salloi (1996) Sporting KC
- Erik Palmer-Brown (1997) Austria Wein
- Jaylin Lindsey (2000) Sporting KC
- Cameron Duke (2001) Sporting KC
- Gianluca Busio (2002) Sporting KC
- Tyler Freeman (2003) Sporting KC



TALISMAN

Jayvin Van Deventer :: 2004 :: DM

Defensive midfielder has good range of passing and is an excellent recovery defender.



TOP PROSPECT

Ryan Reid :: 2006 :: AM/W

Gifted attacking midfielder has quick feet and mind. He thinks 2-3 plays ahead and despite his small frame is able to compete at a higher level. Was a standout with the U15s last season when he got a chance.





SEATTLE SOUNDERS

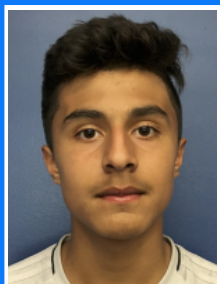
Despite a number of the most talented Seattle Sounders academy products constantly playing up in USL with Tacoma Defiance, the U15s & U17s combined for a 12-2-0 record in league play in 19/20. Don't expect 20/21 to be any different. Age eligible U17 academy deep-lying midfielder Reed Baker-Whiting (2005) signed with the USL side earlier this summer. And while no other 2004 or 2005 has appeared for Tacoma in USL, expect a number of these players to get the call.

The U17s will be littered with USYNT players at nearly every level. The talented 2004 group is lead by midfielder playmaker Juan Alvarez (2004). The USYNT #10 will orchestra the side much as he did last year starting nearly every match for the U17s. Alvarez has excellent vision and weight of passing for a myriad of winger/attacker options to run onto. Baker-Whiting will likely remain with Tacoma, allowing dependable Takashi Sasaki (2004) to fill the #6 role. Like Alvarez, Sasaki was a key piece of last years U17s side. Rounding out the starting midfield will be Obed Vargas (2005). The Alaskan could be the next in the wave of talented Sounders to make the jump the USL. Joshua Arroyo Oliva (2004), a box-to-box midfielder, along with Diego Pena Salgado (2005) at the #6.

The back-line will be headlined by Angel Martinez (2005). The right-footed center back has played up an age level with both Sounders academy as well as with the USYNT. Rumors of a move to Borussia Dortmund from a Mexican media outlet seem premature but the dominant defender with a nose for goal is as close to a can't miss prospect you will find at this level. Martinez will pair with Cody Baker (2004), with Cameron Cruz (2004) on the right. Braden Ferreira (2005) & James Lear (2005) are more than capable reserves who could also see time on the wing. Logan Capilto (2004), Jaggar Judkins (2005) & Favian Martinez (2005) will compete at LB. Farhan Moustafa (2005) & Victor Cabanas (2005) were an excellent CB pairing for the U15s in 19/20.

Sounders will be in good hands between Cole Kulane (2004), Wyatt Nelson (2005) & Levi Bieber (2005).

Up to the Sounders are led by USYNT #9 Austin Brummett (2004). Rumors of a move either back to the East Coast or abroad seem settled. If Brummett plays enough matches at this level he can easily top the scoring charts. Oscar Rincon-Rodriguez (2004) is a dangerous winger who enjoys being on the ball with his bag of tricks. Injuries have hampered his progression within the academy. Alex Hall (2005), Clement Esquivel (2004) & Idin Fakhri (2005) can play on either wing or as the #9. Joshua Hardin (2005) is a game breaker at the RW or RB spot. He signed an USL Academy Agreement with Tacoma in July. Keep an eye on young target striker Michael Launde (2006) who in any other academy would be the top prospect heading into the 20/21 U17 cycle.



STAR MAN

Angel Martinez :: 2005 :: CB

Known for his dynamic passing and comfort on the ball, Martinez is a composed defender not often rattled. He's played up multiple age levels in the DA and Internationally. He was a standout at last years Man City NextGen Cup. Capable of a golazo as well with his powerful right boot.

ALUMNI

- DeAndre Yedlin (1993) - Newcastle FC
- Jordan Morris (1994) - Seattle Sounders
- Handwalla Bwana (1997) - Seattle Sounders
- Trey Muse (1999) - Seattle Sounders
- Alfonso Ocampo-Chavez (2002) - Seattle Sounders
- Daniel Leyva (2003) - Seattle Sounders



TALISMAN

Takashi Sasaki :: 2004 :: DM/CB

While not a flashy player, Sasaki produces few mistakes. He can also play along the backline. Sasaki is the crutch that allows the talented midfielders, wingers, strikers, wingbacks and even center-backs (see above) to get forward threaten goal.



TOP PROSPECT

Obed Vargas :: 2005 :: CM

Vargas has incredible vision and despite playing up two age levels often glided by opponents in 19/20. He has an excellent frame for 15 and will be asked to be the engine for the U17s in 20/21. He is versatile enough to play out wide as a wingback or winger.





HOUSTON DYNAMO

For yours Houston's academy system left much to be desired. Houston's inability to attract and cultivate the ample amounts of talent in Texas was criminal. However, the addition of Tab Ramos signals an intent to providing a viable pathway to professional minutes.

This begins with a diverse and talented 2004 class. Juan Castilla (2004), a USYNT defensive-minded central midfielder signed a homegrown deal earlier this summer. Castilla spent most of the year with the U19s and will likely stay at that level in 20/21 as his player contract will not make him eligible to play with the 1st team until January 2021. Castilla was the first but certainly not the last homegrown signing from the 2004s. Hans Leza (2004), a USYNT leftback, and Cesar Cordova (2004), a USYNT attacking midfielder played up with the U19s for a majority of the year. Castilla, Leza & Cordova along with 19/20 midfield fulcrum Alex Borsos (2004), goalkeeper Logan Erb are all age eligible for the U17s but will play a majority of the year with the U19s.

The 20/21 U17s will rely heavily on the experience of Tristan Aguinaga (2004) who will pair with U15 captain Jose Rodriguez (2005) at central defense. They will be flanked by Iyke Dafe (2005) on the right and Maximilian Vega (2004) on the left. Both Dafe and Vega are capable of playing on the wing. Leonardo Herrera (2005), Bryce Barnum (2004) & Mateo Pinilla (2005) will see time as well. Erb could see time with the U17s but the #1 jersey will likely go to Juan Godinez Castellanos (2005).

The midfield will be lead by Ricardo Garcia (2005), Luis Lugo (2004) and Jhosua Jory (2005). Garcia is central to most of Houston's attacking prowess. Ronaldo Guzman (2004) and Daniel Hernandez (2004) will be expected to assume a bigger role. Alex Oropeza (2005) is a versatile defender who has grown into a solid #6. Expect him to play plenty of minutes in 20/21. Luis Moreno (2006) is a very talented true #10 that played up a level last year and could be asked to play up two levels in Garcia is asked to join the frontline. The Dynamo will also welcome TalentProjekt midfielder Jack Bowers (2004) who is back stateside after a year in Germany.

Out wide Dynamo will bring back Jayden Bassong (2004) & Joseph Farouz (2004). Bassong, like Dafe and Vega can play as wing-back, but is most dangerous on the right wing. Farouz spent most of the 19/20 season with the U15s, but was dominant at that level. He has a change of pace with the ball that made him a tough cover. 12 goals in 14 matches for Farouz make him a candidate for a break-out star at the U17 division in 20/21. D'Alessandro Herrera (2004) played an important role for the U17s last season and could make a big step up.

Up top Zacarias Escobar-Bowie (2005) will be the target man. Escobar-Bowie has a good frame and developing hold up game that could allow him to make a big jump as a #9. Jacob Grossman (2006) could be a player to watch as an attacking role player.



STAR MAN

Ricardo Garcia :: 2005 :: AM

Garcia is a livewire #10 who consistently found himself in excellent scoring positions in 19/20. Despite his attacking flair he is capable winning the ball back quickly and initiating the attack. He formed an excellent partnership with Joseph Farouz. The two are players to watch at this age level.

ALUMNI

- Memo Rodriguez (1995) Houston Dynamo
- Erik McCue (2001) Rio Grande Valley
- Marcelo Palomino (2001) Rio Grande Valley
- Danny Rios (2003) Houston Dynamo
- Juan Castilla (2004) Houston Dynmao



TALISMAN

Maximillian Vega :: 2004 :: LB/LW

Left sided Vega was a solid performer for the Dynamo U17s in 19/20 and will be asked to provide leadership for a very young side made up of mostly 2005s. He was possibly more devastating from the left wing back role than when deploy as a winger.



TOP PROSPECT

Chris Guillen :: 2007 :: D

Dynamo Head Coach Tab Ramos has an ability to identify and push top talent. Guillen represent the next generation of top Dynamo talent. The defender was registered with the U13s, played a majority of his matches with the U14s, but finished with the U15s!





Few clubs outside the United States have the combination of resources and reach to compete MLS clubs. But, that is exactly what Barca Academy has. With an elite staff and training facility in Casa Grande, Barca has been able to attract top national talent. Barca Academy markets itself as a club with the ability to place prospects in multiple professional environments. While not directly attached to a MLS side, they've produced Julian Araujo (LA Galaxy), Bryce Duke (LAFC) & Caden Clark (NYRB II). It's clear that many prospects see this as a viable route to the RIGHT professional environment be it stateside or abroad.

The 20/21 version of Barca Academy U17s will be led by Brooklyn Raines (2005). The do-everything deep lying midfielder has a tremendous motor and poise on the ball. Raines has been on the USYNT radar following a starring role with the id2 tour in 2019. Raines was the youngest player taken to *La Masia* last year, a trip Barca Academy takes their top 3-5 performers on every year.

Raines will be joined by Teodosio Vargas (2005) a versatile prospect who can match Raines energy and work rate. Vargas came over from the famed Total Futbol Academy as a defender but will likely see time as a box-to-box midfielder this season. The creative role will be filled by Rafael Avalos (2005). The former LAFC man will be asked to pull the strings in the attack following Rokas Pukstas (2004) move abroad. Yahir Gonzalez (2005) has been deployed as both the #10 and #9 last season. His 8 goals led the U15s last season, but he might be asked to play deeper this season. Phillie Villapudua (2004) is another solid piece in the midfield.

Barca lose one of their more effective wingers in Samuel Mendoza (2004) who has joined Atlanta United. Jorge Gonzalez (2005) will fill the left flank. Fernando Quinteros (2005) is an option on the right. Barca was able to recruit USYNT winger Korede Osundina (2004) & Mexican youth international Abel Salazar (2004) from Crossfire Premier & LA Galaxy respectively. Osundina was amongst the U17 2004 goal leaders in 19/20 and could play out-wide or as a #9. Salazar is an out-and-out striker who gives Barca incredible depth. With Avalos & Y. Gonzalez creating, Osundina, J. Gonzalez, Quinteros & Salazar could form the most U17 attack.

There is less depth in defense. A core group of 2005s will join with Zakari Smith (2004) and Leo Palma (2004) who will likely form the central defense. Alex Lopez (2005) was a stalwart in defense for the U15s in 19/20 and will see plenty of time as will Nikolas Juarez (2005). Juarez is a midfielder turned central defender and has excellent vision for the position. Joseph Buckley (2005) will main the left back with Brian McManus (2005) on the right.

In net it will be Austin Valdez (2004) who try to fend off Jalen Guadalupe (2005) who starred for the U15s last season.

Barca are also in the hunt for one of the top 2006 prospects in the nation who would instantly make this U17 squad one of the best in the nation



STAR MAN

Brooklyn Raines :: 2005 :: DM

One of the top 2005 prospects in the country. Raines has an elite motor and reads the game well. Raines has a futsal background and is able to combine his work-rate with the technical skills needs to make an impact on both sides of the ball.

ALUMNI

- Julian Araujo (2001) Los Angeles Galaxy
- Bryce Duke (2001) - LAFC
- Matthew Hoppe (2001) FC Schalke II
- Caden Clark (2003) New York Red Bulls II



TALISMAN

Teodosio Vargas :: 2005 :: M

Vargas, like Raines, is the type of player you love to have on your team, but hate to play against. The former defender found himself playing further up in for some of the 19/20 season and is set to play as the #8 in the Barca system.



TOP PROSPECT

Ryan Rivas :: 2006 :: LB

Barca scored a major coup in getting Rivas to join from the Total Futbol Academy. Like their parent club, Barca are predicated on attacking wing backs and Rivas fits this mold. He'll likely start with the U15s but if he continues to impress is a player who could be pushed up an age level.



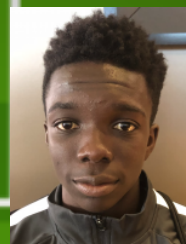
2004 Watch-List



Xavier O'Neil



Austin Brummett



Korede Osundina



Juan Alvarez



Cooper Flax



Caleb Wiley



Brendan Lambe



Logan Batiste



Armando Avila



Thomas Williams

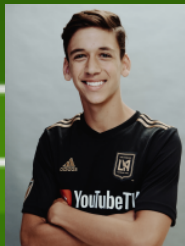


Damian Alguera

2005 Watch-List



Chris Thaggard



Steven Ramirez



Nelson Pierre



Diego Hernandez



Diego Ceja



Curtis Ofori



Brooklyn Raines



Nati Clarke



Matiwos Rumley

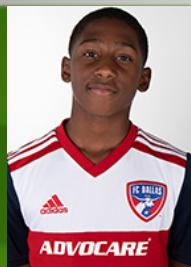


Angel Martinez

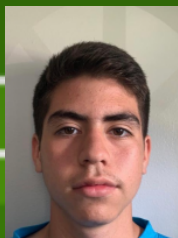


Victor Gomez

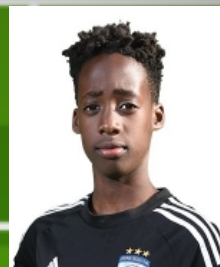
2006 Watch-List



Kristian Kelley



Gael Medrano



Michael Luande



Matthew Corcoran



Ryan Reid



Mark Cajamarca



Javan Romero



Kimbikula Mbula



Gabrial Brandon



Tyler Hall



Misael Mena