

## **Metro United's Kobernus Called to National Team**

*PRESS RELEASE*

*JUNE 1, 2008*

Metro United goalkeeper Kent Kobernus (born in 1992) has been called to the US U17 National Team Camp in Chicago, June 13 – 17. Kobernus joins Frank Simek, Katya Hessel and Brian Grazier as Metro United players who have been called to represent their country at various times in their career. Simek now plays with Sheffield Wednesday in England and Brian Grazier is with the Colorado Rapids of the MLS. Hessel is playing college ball at Mizzou.

"Kent has earned this honor. He trains religiously, 3 times a week with the Academy team, individual goalkeeper training, working out on his own. He has put in his time", comments Metro United Program and Academy Director Dale Schilly. "What has helped put Kent on the national map is the Academy experience. The Academy level is extremely high and Kent has made a very quick adjustment to the pace of the game. Speed of play affects field players obviously, but it effects the decision making of the goalkeeper in a very dramatic way. Every second guessed decision a goalkeeper makes at the Academy level can result in a goal. Because of the quality of the Academy level, Kent demonstrates his sound technical ability and his confidence."

Kobernus, who is finishing his sophomore year at Belleville West, has played for Metro United since he was 8 years old. Coach Schilly claims Kent's desire to play as a field player in his youth years is helping him accomplish his goals as he gets older, "The modern game is a pressing game meaning attacking teams try to get the ball back early. It is imperative in the modern game, for the keeper to cover the space behind the back 4 and be comfortable with the ball at his feet. Kent is a good goalkeeper, but he was a good soccer player first."

Kent has also been the benefactor of excellent goalkeeper training through the years, Duane Kloepple has trained Kent for a number years as Metro's goalkeeper trainer, Blake Decker, Kent's high school coach is a former collegiate goalkeeper and former Granite City and McKendree College standout Tim Henson coaches the Academy goalkeepers.

Kobernus was identified by US National Team scouts while playing in the USSF Academy League with Metro United. The US National staff has been at a number of Metro United games looking for players. Says Schilly, "The Academy has evened the playing field for the region's best boys players. Because players like Kent opted out of the Olympic Development Program because of cost and convenience, they were not afforded the same National Team exposure opportunities as the best players from Chicago, Detroit, etc. Now because of the

Academy, the best players are not playing ODP, they are all playing in the Academy League and the US scouts are hunting for the best players to represent the US. Metro United kids now have a legitimate shot to get into the US team, I think we will see more." Schilly continue, "Kent is a 92 in our U16 team, kids have to get into the program at an early age so that scouts can see them at an early age."

Metro United Academy is off today and play at home on Tuesday, June 3 at 2:00 and 4:00. For more information on the Metro United Academy, please email Dale Schilly at [metrofc@aol.com](mailto:metrofc@aol.com). Visit our web site at [www.metrounitedsoccer.com](http://www.metrounitedsoccer.com) for more information on the club.

#### U.S. Soccer Development Academy - Defined

Everyone agrees – the United States needs to improve as a soccer-playing nation. Following a comprehensive review of elite player development in the United States and around the world, U.S. Soccer has created the U.S. Soccer Development Academy to improve the everyday environment for the elite youth player. Using the U-17 National Team Residency program as a model of training and focus, clubs chosen to participate in the Academy program will only compete in Academy programming, thus increasing the amount of time that can be spent training and improving the quality of matches. National Team and National Staff coaches will scout the Academy matches and trainings to ensure that players are seen in their natural playing environment. U.S. Soccer will assign referees to provide an opportunity for up-and-coming officials to participate in higher-level matches.