

Youth soccer players score big as they graduate from the Bank of Bermuda School of Excellence Programme

(Hamilton, Bermuda, Tuesday 18 July 2006) Eight of Bermuda's promising young soccer players graduated today from the two-week long Bank of Bermuda School of Excellence Programme, managed by Pro MISL player, David Bascome.

The eight players were selected to participate in the programme based on their leadership qualities, positive attitude and superior work rate displayed during the week long Bank of Bermuda Pro Soccer Clinic held 3 July – 7 July 2006.

The School of Excellence Programme combines soccer training with a strong educational element while also encouraging participants to engage in the community with volunteer work. The School of Excellence Programme, which started on 10 July, also required participants to assist with field and programme set-ups for the Bank of Bermuda College Prospect Programme.

Under the direction of coach and schoolteacher, Mike Williams, the students were required to complete a research project on the requirements and steps they needed to take in order to achieve their career goals. The participants also took time out of their intense soccer training schedule to spend time with seniors at Pembroke Rest Home where they helped in carrying out maintenance and repairs around the building, gardening, kitchen work or joined in with the daily activities and entertainment provided for the residents.

David Bascome explained, "In today's competitive environment you can no longer focus all of your energy into one area of your life, colleges and recruiters are looking for the complete package and that means it is of utmost importance that our young athletes become all-round successful people."

In the evenings, the participants joined the Bank of Bermuda College Prospect Programme participants for aggressive training sessions coached by David Bascome. The sessions were focused on mental and physical fitness and included core conditioning training and ball skills training.

“To be a good player you must equally focus on your mental development, as your physical fitness will only get you so far in your overall athletic ability,” explained David Bascome.

Shannon Burgess, Senior Relationship Manager at Bank of Bermuda and former Captain of Bermuda’s National Football Team, said he was encouraged by the dedication and leadership portrayed in the participants, “I am confident that all of these participants will not only walk away from this programme stronger, fitter and more confident in their soccer playing ability but with a greater regard for teamwork and community spirit. Bank of Bermuda recognises the importance in assisting the Island’s youth in achieving excellence both on and off the field. Today we congratulate each and every one of these participants for successfully completing a difficult and challenging two weeks of training and hope that they will continue to be positive leaders amongst their peers.”

Graduating from the Programme:

Idrees Sharrieff age 12

Damali Bell age 14

Jonathan Briers age 13

D’Mitri Williams age 13

Kascia White age 14

Aaron Nelson age 14

Daryl Lounds age 12

Eric LaVigne age 12

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Notes to Editors:

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME: Eight years ago we introduced the School of Excellence Programme, which combines soccer training, education and work experience. Training our youth to become reliable, responsible team players on and off the field are the objectives of the programme. Ten participants from the Bank of Bermuda Pro Soccer Clinic, between the ages of 12 - 14, that show good team leadership skills and positive discipline are selected by the clinic coaches to participate in the School of Excellence and are announced at the Pro Soccer Clinic Presentation. The School of Excellence for 2006 started on the 10 July. It involved class work from 9:00am - 10:30am, work experience from 12noon - 2:00pm and soccer training from 6pm - 8pm. The programme provides Bermuda's advanced players with an incentive to participate in the Bank of Bermuda Pro Soccer Clinic, and encourages them to be role models for the younger players.

- Founded in 1889, Bank of Bermuda is the leading provider of fund administration, trust, custody, asset management and banking services in Bermuda. Since 2004 it has been a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc.
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