



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kickoff for TOPSoccer United We Play

Eau Claire, WI – December 14, 2023 – Eau Claire United Soccer Club (ECU) is pleased to bring TOPSoccer United We Play to the local area. U.S. Youth Soccer’s, “The Outreach Program for Soccer” is a recreational soccer opportunity for children with intellectual, emotional, or physical disabilities offered only through local USYS-affiliated soccer clubs. TOPSoccer provides people with diverse abilities an opportunity to play soccer in a structured environment that is safe, fun, supportive, and inclusive.

TOPSoccer United We Play Program Director Ned Noel said, “TOPS is a free program that meets an important need. The club (ECU) was 100% supportive to help the hundreds of area children who didn’t have the chance to play soccer before. Turnout has already met more than our expectations. The impact is going to be invaluable for all involved and represents our commitment to investing in community through the beautiful game of soccer.”

Organized by ECU coaches and volunteer buddies, the program is currently offered to any boy or girl, ages five (5) or older into high school. Participants are provided with a uniform and soccer ball. Volunteer buddies are paired up with the players they assist each week, and they end up forging a great relationship through greater understanding.

The first season kicked off on December 3rd and runs until January 25th. Sessions are filled with fun, engaging activities and games to learn soccer, exercise, and socialize with others. Held at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire (UWEC) Ade Olson Addition Gymnasium, Noel added, “we are grateful for the generous support from the UWEC and its Foundation in helping to secure indoor session space so more players could participate.”

Registration is closed for the current season, but future players and volunteer buddies may contact the club for the information regarding future seasons. The next session is open to the media and is Sunday, December 17th from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. More information can be found on the ECU website at: <https://www.ecusoccer.org/topsoccer/>.

The support from both the (ECU) Club Board and UWEC have been great to get this program started; however, to continue the growth of this new and impactful program both donations and sponsorships are welcomed. If you are interested in any level of support or sponsorship, please email Ned Noel, TOPSoccer United We Play Program Director at admin@ecusoccer.org.

Who is Eau Claire United Soccer Club?

Established in 1995, Eau Claire United Soccer Club (ECU) is the premier non-profit soccer club in the area committed to inclusion and teaching fundamental soccer skills, while instilling confidence and building a love for the game of soccer.