**PARENT, PLAYER, & ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS**

**An endorsement from the parents of a graduating Development Academy player.......**

As the parents of 4 sons, we have been involved in organized soccer for the better part of the last 20 years, from local rec and travel teams to club and state/regional ODP teams.  We have seen our sons play against teams throughout the US and Europe.  Our oldest played at the Division 3 level at Carnegie Mellon University and another son played for the Division 1 Penn State Nittany Lions.  That said, it was not surprising to us that over the years we have seen tremendous growth in soccer and the demands of players.  With our youngest son considering his future, it became evident that colleges wanted only the most experienced players.  That is why, several years ago, we decided to make the switch to the US Soccer Development Academy program.  With no Academy teams in Western PA, we were forced to consider the 2+ hour drive to Ohio for practices several times a week.  It was by far the best decision we made for our son.  The drive was long and wearing, but the coaching was a level we had not experienced  - demanding yet highly structured and professional.  Plus, the games were at level comparable to what we had seen in Europe -  fast-paced and exciting to watch.  Our son's endurance, skills, and confidence grew significantly.   What's more, college coaches were taking note of our son - so much more than what we had experienced with our older children.  Without a doubt, Academy soccer is worth the investment of time, commitment, and expense.  If you are looking for the best option to prepare for collegiate soccer, the US Soccer Development Academy and, specifically, the Cleveland Internationals program is the only way to go.

**~ Charlene and Tony Machi**

**Reflection from a 10-year alumni now playing in the MLS.......**

I can truthfully say my time at Internationals was one of the most influential and important periods of my life and has shaped who I am more than I could ever have imagined. There is no doubt in my mind that my life would be completely different without the invaluable time spent with family, friends, teammates, and coaches over the 10+ years I was playing for the club. I've made countless friends over those years and I can honestly say I keep in contact with most of them still to this day even though some of us haven't played together in almost a decade now. The skills and lessons learned at the younger ages is incredibly important to a players development and I received nothing but the best from everyone at the club. George and Louie Nanchoff along with the rest of the amazing staff molded all of my teammates and myself into not only great soccer players, but great people as well. I cannot truly thank them enough for what they have done for me and I'm incredibly excited to see the club continue to grow in the years to come.

**~ Chris Korb (D.C. United)**

**Great memories and personal development from a 10-year alumni now playing in the MLS......**

My time with the Internationals means the world to me. Being able to travel the country and play soccer with some of my closest friends is an experience I will take with me for the rest of my life. Not only did we play some of the best soccer available, but I developed close relationships with a lot of my teammates that still exist today.

I am so thankful for everyone I had the pleasure of playing for and with. They helped shape me into the man and player I am today. I wish nothing but the best for all current and future members of the Internationals!

**~ Josh Williams (Toronto F.C.)**