



CBC-dutch touch Returns From Successful Holland Trip

The St. Louis contingent returned on Friday, March 28, after spending 8 days in Holland. The trip was well-planned, fast paced and provided memories that will last a lifetime.

The St. Louis group combined with some of the young Dutch players, those that came to St. Louis last summer as part of the International Camp in July, to compete in the Venray Easter Tournament. This tournament had 450 teams from 15 different countries and in our pool we played teams from Austria, Denmark, Holland and England. This tournament is the European equivalent of the Dallas Cup. It is billed as the largest spring European Tournament. The quality of the teams that we played was very good. We played 6 games in the tournament.

In addition to the Tournament we played 3 'friendlies' of the Dutch teams from our host families, had 4 training sessions with top licensed Dutch coaches, went to a Professional game, visited 2 Professional team sites (NEC Nijmegen and Ajax Amsterdam), with tours provided and did our fair share of sightseeing and viewing historical and cultural points of interest. The players stayed 4 night s with host families and 4 nights in a Hotel.

It is our intention to return during the spring of 2009 and provide more St. Louis players with the chance to travel and experience the best of European soccer. Also, we met some of the players coming to St. Louis this summer for the International Camp, July 20-25 at CBC, and they are excited about coming to St. Louis.

Applications are being accepted for the camp and we have received some already. Apply early so as not to be left out. Space is limited and when the Camps fills, we will not accept any more applications. Check on **stlsoccer.net** for information and application or contact Terry Michler @ michlert@cbchs.org.

This summer we will continue with our International Program as will welcome young Dutch players and licensed Dutch coaches to St. Louis for our 2nd International Camp. This is a great opportunity for the elite St. Louis player to meet, train and play with young Dutch players, who have developed in a different system with a very different approach. As we witnessed during our trip, the level of play is fast, clean and always with a purpose. There is a sort of sophistication in their play that is based on confidence on the ball and an awareness of tactical situations.