

April 3 Update

Today marks the first day that the boys and girls were separated. The boys were up early (6:30am) for a quick breakfast and then off for a lengthy bus ride to play Shrewsbury in Lilleshall, which is the National Sports Center and was previously the training facility of the England National Teams before St George's complex was built. Both teams were surprised early how physical Shrewsbury plays so it took some time before the boys settled in. The 2001 played against their top Academy and several of the players have already signed professional contrast. They were able to keep it close for the first 50 minutes then the experience of Shrewsbury came through and they pulled away. The 2002's played a team with similar physicality so our boys were able to keep the game very close but lost a close and competitive game.

After the game, the boys headed to the city of Chester – wow, what a gem. Chester is one of the oldest cities in all of England and the boys had fun exploring the city and grabbing a late lunch in this ancient Roman City.

After lunch, the boys got back to the complex about 7:00 and had the opportunity to see part of the girls game – I know the girls appreciate the support.

The girls got fortunate for a later breakfast than the boys (6:30am) and then headed to the sports complex for a training session with Vickie Jepson from the Liverpool Academy. After training, the girls went back to the hotel quickly, grabbed a quick shower and then made the trek toward downtown Liverpool and Albert Docks. Once at Albert Docks, the players had the opportunity to explore the city. Since England is on Easter Break, the city was bustling with tons of activity. Some visited the Beatles museum and then of the players headed to Liverpool One, a massive shopping area.

Then girls then headed back to the hotel to get ready for their first match of the week vs Manchester United Academy. You could tell the girls were very excited and some even a little nervous to be playing against one of the biggest names in the world. The 2001's played first, and the nerves got the best of the them early with lots of unforced errors giving up a few goals. They settled in very nicely for the rest of the game and played with the grit and energy that was expected but unfortunately came up a little short. The 2002's had a similar start but seemed to settle the serves just a little quicker than the 2001's and the girls were able to pull out a draw.

After a long day, both groups were excited for a warm meal and rest.

Tomorrow will bring another training session and their second game.

Some photos from yesterday can be seen below:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/kyyouthsoccer/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10156251025806119