

April 5 Update

Wow, what a day. Everything got kicked off with another early wake up call and breakfast starting at 6:15am. After eating, we boarded the buses for a 7:00am departure for the Liverpool FC Academy Training Center – the training center is where all of the youth academy teams train. The facility is first class. Upon arriving, the staff for Liverpool FC met the players and began a 90-minute training session. The energy from the players was outstanding especially considering how much is being asked of the players.

After the session, we headed toward Liverpool for our Anfield Stadium tour. Before starting the tour, the players went into the team store and from the looks of it, they loaded up with all kinds of gifts. I'm sure the players bought their parents something nice. 😊 After the team store, the tour started with a walkthrough the museum and learned about history of the club and the successes over the years.

We then were met with our guide Sean who took us through Anfield. We started by going to the top of the third level and getting a bird's-eye view of the stadium and the city of Liverpool. The views were stunning. We then worked our way to the field level where the players got to sit in the managers dugout and got to see the playing surface. Perfect is the word that comes to mind. The tour ended with a few minutes in The Kop, the largest supporter section in the stadium. Even 12 hours removed from the big Champions League win, you could still feel the energy in the stadium.

From Anfield, we headed back to the Liverpool Training Center where we got to see some U10 games and then watched a 60-minute session of the U-23 team. After the U-23 session, we had a short question and answer with the goalkeeper coach and two of the players. The players and coaches asked some great questions and heard some interesting answers from all three of them. The day at the Liverpool Academy ended with the players getting their pictures with the Champions League Trophy that Liverpool won in 2005.

After heading back to the hotel and dinner, Michael Yates from Liverpool Academy came and talked about in depth about the Liverpool Academy and what it means. Wow, what a great story – make sure to ask your players about this talk.

If you want to see some of the pictures from the last two days, click on the link below:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/kyyouthsoccer/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10156254722261119