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September 5th-6th:

The Western Mass Jr. Pioneers U11 Black team participated in the FC Stars Cup, a Platinum level tournament this past weekend. After a successful pre-season of friendly games and tournaments, it was time for the team to play vs. the top clubs in the state and region. The girls were able to find success with each team they encountered. Although they dropped the opener in a 2-1 loss, there was a good deal of scoring opportunities that just escaped them. Solid play for three quarters of the game gave the team the chance to win but a few bad bounces and the game ended. The team took their learning objective of "coming out strong" from the start and was able to battle with eventual tournament winner FC Explosion. After giving up a goal in the first half, the team rallied behind the efforts of each player to net the equalizer in the second half ending the game in a 1-1 tie. Sunday morning and the third game came with still a chance to make it to the finals. With some help from the other two teams, a win would give the team a chance and this was their motivation. As a result, an outpour of offensive pressure in which the first 5 minutes of the game resulted in 2 corner kicks and 8 shots on goal. It was only time that the defensive pressure would turn into a scoring opportunity and did in the first half. At the half, a one goal lead was not one the girls were ready to sit on. In the first 1.2 seconds, pressure on the ball resulted in another scoring chance. At the 1.5 min mark of the second half, the team scored again. After talking about critical time periods after a goal is scored, the team rallied to keep the pressure on scoring another 4 goals in the half. At the end of the game the team had accomplished what they had set out to do. The result was a convincing win over NEFC 5-1. On the weekend the U11 Squad went 1-1-1 vs. the top teams and accomplished a good deal of team identity in which they hope will carry them into the fall season. The U11 Black squad ended their pre-season at 7wins -2 losses -1 tie.



U11 Girls Black Go 4-0-0 at TWIST

August 2009:

The Western Mass Jr. Pioneers U11 Girls "Black" attended the bronze level TWIST Tournament in Wallingford, Connecticut this past weekend recording a record of 4 wins, no losses and no ties. After playing in 3 friendly warm up games prior to the tournament,

the ladies were looking for their first challenge in which the games were played with a competitive nature. The tournament is part of their preseason preparation for the upcoming fall season. Prior to the tournament, the team set specific goals of sound defense as well as putting together quality control of the ball on offense. The team was very proud to post 3 shut out games and ending the tournament with a 0.25 G.A.A. While the offense supplied a good deal of excitement averaging 4 goals per game, it was not the main story. It was the team effort in that 7 different players had goals, 9 different players chipped in with an assist and a total of 11 players getting a point on the weekend. The team now preps for the Platinum level Stars Cup in Lancaster on Labor Day weekend.