

March 25, 2008

STAE CUP GAME ANNOUNCED

LUDLOW, MA. - The Jr. Pioneers will play a Challenge 3rd round State Cup match vs. D2 Valeo FC on Friday, May 1st at 5:30 PM at Ana Dias Field.

The game is of huge significance in a one-game-winner-take-all-match on the way to the Mass. State Cup Tournament Finals Rounds being held at Citizen's Bank Soccer Complex on May 30-31 in Lancaster, MA.

The Pioneers received 2 byes in the fall, by virtue on their excellent spring run in last years State Cup Tournament, therefore by-passing early Entry and Challenge Rounds matches.

All Massachusetts State Cup 2009 matches fall under the rules and procedures formula that falls under the National Cup Director, that oversees the Mass. Youth Soccer Association and the U.S. Youth Soccer Association National Championship Series.

The winner of the Mass. State Cup qualifies for the New England Regional Championships and that winner qualifies for the U.S. National Cup Championship Tournament Finals Series held in mid-July in Birmingham, Alabama.

March 21, 2008

DOUBLE-HEADER at SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE



SPRINGFIELD, MA. - The Western Mass. U-13 Jr. Pioneers swept a double-header at Springfield College on Saturday, as the club hosted a pre-season soccer tournament under sunny skies in crisp fresh spring air played on artificial turf.

In the first match in the morning the Pioneers handled FSA of Connecticut 3-1, and in the afternoon match they defeated the Stars of Massachusetts 2-0.

Brian Rossini of Somers, collected 2 goals, with Dave Serafino of Springfield, Andre Ferreira and Jeff Danek, both of Ludlow, scoring 1 goal each as the Pioneers landed 2 impressive victories for the home team.

Coach's note: The team is playing as if they did not miss a beat through out the unforgiving Winter. There was nice two touch play and very organized defending. Ben Murphy of Monson had two impressive games at right back and in goal. Along with the goal scorers: Nick Forni of Wilbraham, Brian Collamore of Springfield, Adam Goncalves and Jordan Martins both of Ludlow all deserve honorable mention. Great job team!

In the game between FSA United and Stars of Mass: Stars of Mass came out victorious with a 1-0 final. It was a very tight and well disputed game.

~Roger Mendes~

The Pioneers overall winning record for the 2008-09 season now stands at 12-7-1.

The club goes on the road this Sunday for the MAPLE spring regular season opener vs. power-rival North Shore United.

North Shore United only has 1 loss in the last 2 years, and that was against the Pioneers in last years Delta Invitational semi-final at Citizen's Bank Soccer Complex.

March 15, 2009

PRE SEASON FRIENDSHIP TOURNAMENT

Woburn, MA - The Western Mass Junior Pioneers U-13 Boys played two friendly matches this weekend at Woburn High School. The first game was played against FC Bruno U-13 Boys of the MAPLE D3. The Junior Pioneers came out flying on this beautiful Sunday morning and dominated the game. The final was 9-0. Goals scored by Nick Forni, Beraa Ibas, Brian Rossini, Jeff Danek, Bailey Gawron and two goals a piece from David Serafino and Adam Goncalves. Kudos to Diogo Ribeiro and Beraa Ibas for really making a strong contribution in midfield.

In the second match, things got a little tougher as the Junior Pioneers went heads up against a stronger and bigger North Shore United U-14 Boys team of the MAPLE D2. North Shore got on the scoreboard early but the Junior Pioneers did not let up. They tied it up early in the second half with a goal from David Serafino. The older North Shore team got their lead back with three great goals but this year's U-13 Boys pushed on and were able to get one back from Jeff Danek. The final was 2-4. Dan Matias and Jordan Martins were strong in the back and had no fault on any of the goals. Ben Murphy also had two solid games in goal. This coming Saturday, the Junior Pioneers will be playing in a mini round robin friendly against FSA United of Connecticut U-13 and the FC Stars of Mass MAPLE D1 U-13 teams. Games will be played at Springfield College's Irv Schmid Fields

November 16, 2008

EM FC STAYS IN TOP DIVISION 1 FOR SPRING 2009

LANCASTER, MA. - Eastern Mass. FC defeated Bayside SC of Rhode Island 3-1, in penalty kicks after a scoreless game, including 2 scoreless overtimes in a playoff game held at Citizens Bank Soccer Complex on Saturday.

The winner gets D1 status for next spring. The loser gets D2.

EM FC will be the 8th and final team that will play D1 soccer in the spring.

The Stars of Massachusetts won the D2 regular season title and will be promoted to D1 in the spring, rounding out the 8 team division.

WMASS crushed EM FC 5-1 at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow in their stretch run drive, as the Pioneers finished the season on a blistering note going 3-0-1 in their last 4 Mass Premier League matches in the fall to secure a stay in D1 for the spring 2009 season.

The Pioneers finished the fall season with a winning record going (9-6-1 overall & 4-4-1 in the tough MAPLE D1).

The Pioneers opening spring MAPLE match is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 5th vs. a D1 club TBD in March when the schedule is unveiled.

November 9, 2008

PIONEERS VICTORIOUS, PROUDLY EARN STAY IN TOP DIVISION

WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA. - The Western Mass. Pioneers defeated the West Side Bandits 1-0 on Sunday on another beautiful fall day to play soccer.

The win clinches a top division placement for next spring, the ultimate goal for the club from the beginning of the season according to Pioneers Head Coach Roger Mendes. Dave Serafino of Springfield, got the Pioneers on the scoreboard in the first half with a goal after receiving a nifty pass from Troy Nascimento of Ludlow, to put WMASS up 1-0.

That is all the Pioneers needed.

Pioneers net-minder Bailey Gawron of Hampden, got the shutout win, but not before a high arching shot that was labeled for the far top corner, was corralled by the keeper, in the 2nd half that could be called the save of the game if not the save of the year for the Pioneers.

The Pioneers (9-6-1, 4-4-1) can breath a little easier this winter knowing that the last 2 fall season prior the Pioneers could not accomplish top division status in the spring. However in the past 2 springs the club did rebound and were promoted ultimately back up to the top division in the fall.

The Pioneer stay in the top division along with North Shore United, Benfica USA, Greater Boston Bolts, BlackWatch & Western United.

That's pretty good company.

The Pioneers schedule makers are trying to secure a independent game for next Saturday to close out the outdoor fall season.

SPECIAL SOCCER REPORT November 2, 2008

HIS NAME IS JEFF DANEK.... & HIS GAME IS SOCCER...

LUDLOW, MA. - When he joined the Pioneers in the spring of 2008 he looked like a giant among men.

It wasn't until mid-season though, is when Jeff Danek practically took the Pioneers on his back alone into the Mass State Cup Tournament and started showing his incredible scoring arsenal.

Before Danek arrived, the Pioneers had a tough time scoring in the fall of 2007. Since then the Pioneers have been a top 4-6 club in MAPLE.

Last season he tore up the league and was a intricate part of the team winning success and then winning the prestigious Delta Invitational last spring at Citizens Bank Soccer Complex. This year JD is still recognized as one of the top scorers in New England. He as added a nice passing game to his repertoire.

For his part, to his teammates he is recognizes as a gentle giant. He has been known to get his teammates to laugh a bit and has a good sense of humor.

You heard it here first from the field loud-speaker....in a few short years... " Ludlow High School goal scored by #11 Jeff Danek".....

November 2, 2008

HUGE 2-2 TIE PROPELS PIONEERS TO POSSIBLE TOP DIVISION STATUS IN SPRING 2009 ??

LUDLOW- The Junior Pioneers tied their local rival Western United 2-2 at historic Lusitano Stadium on Sunday in fantastic soccer weather. In the first half, Dave Serafino of Springfield, scored to even the score at 1 just before halftime.

In the 2nd half, Adam Goncalves of Ludlow, scored to put the Pioneers up 2-1, and a great win awaited. But, Western United then pressed the Pioneers and got the equalizer with about 10 minutes remaining in the match. A-win-turned-to-a-tie-and-then-almost-a loss, as WU was awarded a penalty kick, with about 5 minutes left, but the free kick sailed just high and wide and a tie was in the books, and a big tie it turns out to be.

The tie, equaling (1 point) in the standing is huge as the Pioneers (8-6-1, 3-4-1) are alone in 6th place only one point ahead of Eastern Mass. FC (3-5) who loss 2 games this past weekend.

The top 6 finishing teams in the fall remain in the 1st division in the spring of 2009.

The 7th place team has a post-season playoff match with the 2nd division, 2nd place team in 2 weeks. A win next Sunday in the last regular season match for WMASS vs. the West Side Bandits will clinch a top division placement, and no need for a playoff match. However, anything less then that, the Pioneers leave EM FC last game vs. Greater Boston to determine their fate.

WHAT IF? Soccer thoughts for our Big JD & Company. It's a game of inches. Pioneers like no call.

Pioneers fans did not know, but their high powered offense lead by Jeff Danek and Co. got a little lucky on Sunday. With a WU defender on his back, JD stuffed the ball just under the crossbar right on the goal-line from Adam Goncalves shot to go ahead 2-1. Standing near the line in the stands the linesman referee looked up and told this blogger that the entire ball just crossed the goal-line, and if JD touched it inches before the line, he would have been called off sides and no goal allowed. Good call Ref. !

Down to last match or playoff match in 2 weeks?

The Pioneers travel across the river and face the West Side Bandits (0-8) (who have played very well the last 3-4 games) at West Springfield High School at high noon on Sunday, November 9th.

The Bandits will be looking to make their tough season a little better by knocking off the Pioneers and have local bragging rights throughout the long-cold New England winter.

The Pioneers 2-0-1 in the last 3 matches should be ready and not take anything for granted.

SPECIAL SOCCER REPORT **October 26, 2008**

Western Mass. U-13 Jr. Pioneers Goal-tender Bailey Gawron of Hampden, earned the tremendous shutout victory vs. Eastern Mass FC 5-0 on Sunday at Lusitano Stadium.

This is his 2nd shutout in the Mass. Premier League so far this fall season after a impressive 1-0 shutout win over the Fuller Hamlets in the MAPLE opener for both teams.

He earned numerous shutouts in the preseason as the Pioneers went 5-2, before league games started.

Gawron, in his 3rd season with the Pioneers has started every match in goal since his arrival from the Wilbraham Falcons SC in the spring of 2006.

October 26, 2008

WMASS ANNIHILATES EMASS 5-0

LUDLOW, MA. - Brian Rossini of Somers, scored 2 goals and Nick Forni of Wibraham, added 1, in between their teammates Jeff Danek and Andre Ferreira, both of Ludlow, who scored 1 goal each as the Western Mass Jr. Pioneers crushed Eastern Mass. FC 5-0 at Lusitano Stadium on Sunday.

Pioneers Head Coach Roger Mendes said on the team preparations for tough Eastern Mass. "Yesterday (Sunday) they (his Pioneers) were organized defensively, they played precise two style play, they attacked in the directions that we worked on in training, they moved without the ball, they passed and crossed well and they overall came out to play."

With now back-to-back convincing home wins at Lusitano Stadium, (over NE Eagles FC 6-1), WMASS fans can only look forward to this Sundays match against local rival, Western United Soccer Club (3-3-1) at the historic Stadium pitch again for the 3rd consecutive Sunday.

A few of the current players for the Pioneers in their 4th fall season with the club have faired very well at the venerable Stadium, going 9-2-2 in 13 matches.

The Pioneers (8-6 overall, 3-4 MAPLE) are currently in 6th place in Division 1 with only 2 regular season matches left.

The top 6 teams automatically remain in the top Division for spring 2009 play. The 7th place finisher will be forced to play a playoff match vs. the 2nd place finisher in Division 2 in mid-November with the winner getting placed in Division 1 for the spring season..

This fall there are currently 38 MAPLE teams in 4 separate U-13 divisions. Each fall and spring season, clubs either remain stagnant in a division, are promoted or relegated to certain divisions (up or down) based on a formula of merit play only, on that particular teams win-lost record and final place in the standings in a division, in that season of play.

October 19, 2008

PIONEERS POUND NE EAGLES FC 6-1

LUDLOW, MA. - The U-13 Western Mass. Jr. Pioneers came alive and pounded the New England Eagles FC 6-1 on a sunny crisp afternoon at Lusitano Stadium on Sunday.

Dave Serafino of Springfield, scored 3 goals; Jeff Danek of Ludlow, scored 2 goals and Brian Rossini of Somers, scored 1 as the Pioneers dominated the visitors from the lower Merrimack Valley region of Massachusetts.

With the big win, WMASS (7-6 overall, 2-4 MAPLE) are now in 7th place in D1. The top 6 teams in the fall division final standings stay in the first division for the spring 2009 season.

The 7th place finisher in Division 1 hosts a playoff game vs. the 2nd place finisher in Division 2 on November 16th and the winner of that match gets placed in D1 for the spring. The 8th, 9th and 10th place finishers in D1 are relegated to D2 for the spring of 2009.

There are only 3 matches left to play for the Jr. Pioneers.

Next weekend, WMASS hosts 5th place Eastern Mass. FC (3-2 MAPLE), at Lusitano Stadium at 2:30 pm. on Sunday. Then the Pioneers host Western United (2-3-1) on Sun. Nov, 2nd at Ana Dias Field and then WMASS takes on the West Side Bandits (0-6-1) on Sun. Nov. 9th in West Springfield to end the fall regular season soccer schedule.

October 5, 2008

PIONEERS LOOK FORWARD TO HOME COOKING

BILLERICA, MA. - The Western Mass. U-13 Pioneers Soccer Club took to their last road trip of the fall season in hopes of beating the last power team in MAPLE that they will face in the regular season, but their hopes were dashed as Benfica USA got 2 goals in the 2nd half to defeat WMASS 2-0.

With 4 home matches remaining vs. 4 other 1st division top foes, however, not considered power clubs, teams that have actually loss a match or 2, so far this season; it is somewhat positive the team can look forward to, because this stretch run the team has been playing has been extremely competitive to say the least. Clearly WMASS schedule has been absolutely brutal. Playing their 4th power club in 5 matches, the Pioneers evenly played Benfica in the 1st half, only to play uninspired soccer for some reason to start the 2nd half, and it seemed to carry on that way for practically the rest of the game.

The good news forecast for the Pioneers (6-6,1-4), is that the next 4 games are all considered winnable and a winning season is still in reach. Stay tuned this week as experts will analyze the Pioneers possibilities of a possible play-in playoff game this fall, and the Pioneers chances of staying in the 1st Division for the spring of 2009. The Pioneers are idle this Sunday. The next match is in 2 weeks vs. New England Eagles SC (2-2-1).

September 28, 2008

BLACKWATCH TOPS PIONEERS 3-2

LUDLOW, MA. - When the Western Mass. Pioneers clinched a top division placement last

spring for this fall, some fans must of thought of the excellent scheduled competition vs. the best, of the best and as good as you can get in New England soccer for the their club to play against. Those fans are correct in their early thinking as talented Blackwatch soccer club of R.I. defeated WMASS 3-2 at Anna Dias Fields this afternoon.

Blackwatch (3-1), showed they can challenge for the league title vs. the other power teams such as, #1 North Shore (3-0), or #2 Boston Bolts (3-0), whom the Pioneers faced already, or #3 Benfica (3-0), who the Pioneers will face on the road next Sunday. After that match next week, the schedule gets a bit-less demanding in comparison to the first-half of the season with 4 home games vs. the lower-half-tier-clubs of Div. 1.

Blackwatch is a team that plays the same up-tempo short game for 70 minutes as they never let off the gas peddle and attack the ball continually as they play a beautiful strategic game. In the first half Jeff Danek of Ludlow, scored on a pass from Brian Rossini of Somers, via a high ball from Andre Ferreira of Ludlow, as the game was tied 1-1 at half-time. In the 2nd half, BW pressure offense scored 2 goals to lead 3-1. Then late in the 2nd half, with less than 5 minutes left in the game, Diogo Ribeiro of Ludlow, scored on a corner-kick from Ben Murphy of Monson. From there, BW played the clock out, and the sudden energized Pioneer players, could not come up with the equalizer, as time ran out for the home team. The Pioneers record is now (6-5 overall, 1-3 D-1 MAPLE).

September 21, 2008

#2 GREATER BOSTON BOLTS TOP JR PIONEERS

LUDLOW MA, - The # 2 ranked soccer club in the Massachusetts Premier League came to Lusitano Stadium and showed fans why they are ranked # 21 nationally and defeated the beloved home team 3-0 on a spectacular early fall day. Local soccer experts and observers suggested that the Greater Boston Bolts were more impressive on Sunday than last weeks match vs. #1 ranked North Shore United.

In any event, the Pioneer fans and players thrive to play the best, and they did just exactly that, in the last 2 matches vs. the # 1 and # 2 ranked power clubs and showed positive flashes in both games, that they can compete at times with the Top 5 clubs in New England, but the team needs to be more aggressive attacking the ball defensively and offensively with anticipating the play before it happens over the course of 70 minutes to truly compete with power clubs day in and day out, in the top upper echelon of Division 1.

With that said, the Pioneers club has shown that can be accomplished, as WMASS showed the talent and grit at certain times the last 2 weekends vs. the best of the best.

Now it is on to the next major soccer program, as the fans continue to welcomed the brutal schedule as they crave the competition. They will get another look at a powerhouse opponent, as it does not get any easier, as the Pioneers now, (6-4 overall,1-2 MAPLE), host Rhode Island's # 5 ranked Blackwatch FC this Sunday, September 28th, at 2:30 PM either at Anna Dias Field or Lustiano Stadium in Ludlow. Last spring, BW defeated the Pioneers early in the season, before WMASS went on a winning run closing out the 2007-08 campaign. In the latest power rankings released on Monday, WMASS is # 6. There are 38 clubs in MAPLE in 4 separate U-13 divisions.

September 14, 2008

#1 RANKED NORTH SHORE TOPS PIONEERS 3-1

GLOUCESTER, MA. - It was a tale of 2 halves, with the WMASS Jr. Pioneers dominating the first half and leading 1-0, and then #1 ranked North Shore United doing the exact same dominance to the Pioneers in the 2nd half and score 3 unanswered goals to win 3-1.

With the wind at WMASS backs and a downhill sloped direct kick from the 40 yard line, lefty Danny Matias of Ludlow, blasted a drive in the upper 90 over the sprawling NSU goalie in the 1st half and a possible big-time upset was in the works. But in the 2nd half, with the winds at NSU's backs now, it was their time to dominate and they did just that.

The Pioneers are now 1-2-1 vs. new rival North Shore the last 2 seasons. The Pioneers (6-3 overall, 1-1 MAPLE), next match is this Sunday at Lusitano Stadium vs. #2 ranked Greater Boston Bolts. Last week the Mass. Premier League ranked the Pioneers #7 out of 38 clubs.

September 7, 2008

PIONEERS OPEN WITH BIG LEAGUE WIN OVER HAMLETS

SUTTON, MA. - The Western Mass. U-13 Jr. Pioneers opened the Mass. Premier League with a win over the Fuller Hamlets Soccer Club 1-0, on a spectacular Sunday to watch soccer. With topical storm Hanna passing through New England in the morning hours, the field conditions were not in tip-top shape, but the Pioneers played just good enough to pull out a huge opening day league win.

Jeff Danek of Ludlow, scored a goal on a assist from Jordan Martin of Ludlow, in the 1st half, and then the Pioneers' defense handled the rest in the 2nd half, as the Pioneers prevailed. Goalkeeper Bailey Gawron of Hampden, earned the shutout win.

WMASS has won 2 games in a row vs. the Hamlets. The Pioneers now (6-2 overall, 1-0 MAPLE,) travel to #1 ranked North Shore United next Sunday. In 2007-08, the Pioneers were 1-1-1 vs. powerful North Shore in 3 matches.



U-13 Boys Fall 2008 Farmington Valley Soccer Shootout Labor Day PIONEERS GO 1-2 IN CONNECTICUT PREMIER TOURNAMENT

September 1, 2008

FARMINGTON, CT. - The Western Mass. Jr. Pioneers went 1-2 in the prestigious Farmington Savings Bank Invitational Shootout this Labor Day Weekend. The Pioneers played 3 top premier clubs from the State of Connecticut.

In the first game, the Pioneers led at halftime 1-0, but Everton SC of Greater Norwalk, CT. scored 3 unanswered goals in the 2nd half to win 3-1.

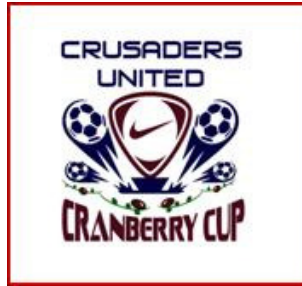
In game 2, under the glow of lights, the Pioneers manhandled FSA SoccerPlus Reds 4-0, on Saturday evening. On Sunday afternoon, the Pioneers played a inspiring 2nd half, but West

Hartford Premier won 2-0. In the Tournament Jeff Danek of Ludlow, scored 4 goals and Jack Stinson of Belchertown, scored 1 goal on an assist from Dave Serafino of Springfield. Hampden's Bailey Gawron had a shutout in game 2 as the goalkeeper for WMASS. The Pioneers, now (5-2), open up the Mass. Premier League next Sunday, September 7 on the road vs. Division 1 foe, Fuller Hamlets of Southern Worcester County. Last spring, the Pioneers beat the Hamlets in the Mass State Cup Elite 8 at Citizens Bank Soccer Complex.

Pioneers- 1 Everton SC- 3

Pioneers- 4 PSA SoccerPlus Reds- 0

Pioneers- 0 West Hartford Premier- 2



Pioneers win Cranberry Cup, 4-0 to start season (U13-B) CRANBERRY CUP TITLE VICTORY

August 11, 2008

CARVER, - MA. The Jr. Pioneers Soccer Club, coached by Roger Mendes, easily picked up the Cranberry Cup Tournament Championship Title this weekend in Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

In 4 games, the Pioneers completely dominated the Vikings FC of Salem, Mass., the Hanover,(MA.) All Stars, and then 2 convincing wins over host Plymouth Crusaders United to win it all. This is the Pioneers 3rd Tournament Championship Title in 2 years. Last year, the Pioneers, (18-9-4), overall, won the prestigious Delta FC and the Ludlow Columbus Day Championship Tournaments Titles. The Pioneers, now (4-0), to start the 2008-09 season, have applied for the highly competitive Farmington, CT. Tournament (FSA), over Labor Day Weekend. The clubs opening Mass. Premier League match is on Sunday, September 7.