

MCDONALD'S ALL AMERICAN SOCCER RETROSPECTIVE: FROM THE BEGINNING...

McDonald's All American Soccer players are widely considered to be the "best of the best" among high school seniors competing during the school year. The legacy of the Games is only beginning – and as the McDonald's All American Soccer Games grow each year, the names from past teams become more and more recognizable as the selected stars become standout collegiate and professional soccer players.

The following is a brief look back at highlights from the past two years of McDonald's All American High School Soccer Games:

2003 McDonald's All American Games

Jessica Bayne and Ramon Nunez each earned Most Valuable Player honors as they led their teams to victory at the second annual McDonald's All American High School Soccer Games, played in Charleston, S.C.

Bayne (Troy, Ill./ University of Illinois) scored the opening goal and assisted on the final score to earn MVP honors as the East girls defeated the West 4-1. Ashley Foster (Athens, Ga./University of Texas) also had a goal and assist for the East, while East goalkeeper Megan Tuura (Tucker, Ga./University of Michigan) was named Most Valuable Goalkeeper.

In the boys' game, Nunez (Dallas, Texas/Dallas Burn) scored a goal and displayed outstanding on-field play to lead the West to a 4-0 win over the East. Jaime Watson (Coppell, Texas/North Carolina) opened the scoring with a goal in the 56th minute and assisted on the final goal, scored by Kenny Cooper (Plano, Texas/SMU) in the 80th minute. Cooper assisted on Nunez's goal in the 63rd minute. Vedad Ibisevic (St. Louis, Mo./Saint Louis Univ.) took a feed from Will John (Overland Park, Kan./Saint Louis Univ.) to score in the 70th minute. Billy Chiles (Silver Spring, Md./Rutgers) held the West scoreless in the first half to claim Most Valuable Goalkeeper honors.

2002 McDonald's All American Games

Kelly Hammond and Phillip Long (both at University of Virginia) were named the Most Valuable Players as they led their respective East squads to victories in the POWERade McDonald's All American High School Games played at Blackbaud Stadium on Daniel Island in Charleston, S.C.

Hammond and Tiffany Weimer (Penn State) each scored twice as the East Girls blanked the West, 6-0 to take the first half of a doubleheader. Hammond's heroics included an assist on one of Weimer's goals in the 22nd minute to put the game out of reach at 3-0. She also scored the first goal in the event's history in the 16th minute off an assist from Holly Ryder of Plantation, Fla.

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In the boys' game, Long scored the game-winner in the 73rd minute off an assist from John Kochis, Jr. (University of Rhode Island).

Earlier, Adam Bruh (University of Michigan) opened the scoring in the 25th minute with a bending free kick over the wall from about 22 yards on the right. Dan Wasson (Air Force) got the equalizer in the 33rd minute for the West.

Amy Franciscovich (Emory University) was named Most Valuable Goalkeeper for the East Girls, while Brian Crunk (King College) took home the Most Valuable Goalkeeper Award for the East Boys. Both recorded shutouts in the second half to propel their teams to victory.