



2004 Donauschwaben Tournament

Planning for this year's Donauschwaben Tournament began six months ago. Unfortunately, with all the planning we did, I forgot to put someone in charge of the weather. It started to rain a week before the tournament, and didn't stop for three days. Considering all the travel plans made by the other teams, as well as all our planning as the host club, there was no way we were going to let a little rain stop us. Although the entire game schedule had to be shifted, the tournament went on as planned.

The weekend began Friday morning, when our friends from Los Angeles Danubia arrived and headed directly to the golf course for a quick nine. That evening, they played a friendly game against the Kickers O-40 team. The score was 5-0 for Danubia. Being the great hosts that we are, we let them win. After the game, we all went to the club for dinner and some liquid refreshments. It was great to see them again and catch up on old times.

The Kickers entered four teams in the tournament this year: two major division teams, O-35, and a women's open team. The women's open team finished with a 4-0 record, which brought them the championship. This is the first time that we have entered a women's team, but it will not be the last. We are planning to bring these ladies to the Kickers on a full time basis.

In the O-35 Division, Coach Mike Kubert put together a strong team. They finished with a 3-1 record, which was good enough for 2nd place. The first place trophy went to Windsor Teutonia; the Kickers beat them by a score of 3-0, go figure.

Detroit's 2nd team was entered in place of St. Louis, who could not attend due to financial reasons. Usually, when two teams are entered from the same club, the 2nd team is considered a push over and the rest of the teams

fill up their net with goals. This year, that did not happen. The boys did the club proud. They played a fast and entertaining brand of soccer finishing with a 1-2-1 record.

The Kickers 1st finished with a 3-0-1 record which put them into the championship game against Cleveland Concordia. This makes five out of the last six years that the first team has made it into the final. The game was played before approximately 700-800 people. The Kickers really took it to Concordia, hitting the post, sending shots just wide, and really putting on a show. The game went back and forth and when the two 25 minute halves were over, the score was tied at 0-0. After two five minute over times, the score was still tied. This meant that we were going to penalty shots. Concordia won the penalty shoot out 4-3 to take the trophy back to Cleveland.

After the final, we headed back to the club for the trophy presentation and dinner. Usually, once the presentation is over, everyone runs for the door, but not in Detroit. Most of the teams stayed until midnight replaying the whole tournament in the member's room, which was packed for three straight nights. This just proves that Kickers know how to throw a party.

On behalf of the Kickers, I would like to thank all the members of the Carpathia Club who worked so hard to make this tournament a success. I would also like to thank the members of the Tournament Committee for all their hard work, especially the week of the Tournament, when we held hope that we could still play the games at the club. To everyone that worked so hard to make this tournament a success, take with you the satisfaction of a job well done, and be proud that you play for the greatest soccer club in the state.

Kurt Seiberling ❁

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