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# Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SPIRIT UNITED SOCCER CLUB AND WEST CHESTER UNITED SOCCER CLUB  
ANNOUNCE THE CREATION OF A NEW ACADEMY PROGRAM**

WEST CHESTER, PA, MARCH 27, 2009: Spirit United Soccer Club (SUSC) and West Chester United Soccer Club (WCUSC) have announced a joint venture to create Penn Fusion Soccer Academy (Penn Fusion). The southeastern Pennsylvania based soccer academy will be comprised of boys and girls teams from the U-14 to U-18 age groups. Penn Fusion Soccer Academy will provide a professional environment for elite players to develop their skills and compete in the highest levels of soccer currently available, both regionally and nationally.

“Spirit United is very excited to be involved in this joint venture with West Chester United to ensure that the players in our respective clubs are given every opportunity to play at the highest level in youth sports”, said Sean McCafferty, Director of Coaching for Spirit United. “This is the beginning of something very special,” continued McCafferty, “as two of eastern Pennsylvania’s biggest clubs, not only do both clubs have the player pool and coaching staff to rival any on the east coast, but also boast some of the best facilities in the country. Our players will train in the best environment possible.” Both West Chester United and Spirit United have produced top collegiate players as well as

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players who have represented the United States at various age levels. Becky Edwards played for both Spirit United and West Chester United and recently helped the United States win the Under 20 Women's World Cup as captain of the national team, and Melvin Snoh who represented the US at the U-15 level and attracted the attention of professional clubs in England while on a recent trip to the United Kingdom with the Spirit United Celtic team. "With Penn Fusion," added McCafferty, "we will continue to develop players of this standard who will proudly and successfully represent their country. The birth of Penn Fusion will ensure that the number of players playing at the highest level will continue to rise."

Penn Fusion has applied to the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) to become a development academy. "We have applied for the US Development Academy and believe we have the professional resources and philosophy that the USSF is looking for," said Lee Martin, WCUSC board member and 10 year staff coach. "Development of the youth player is our primary goal with an emphasis on extensive practice time and participation in competitive matches," added Martin. All teams within Penn Fusion will compete at the highest level possible, whether that is in a national league (i.e., US Youth Soccer National League) or in regional leagues (i.e., US Youth Soccer Region 1 Premier League).

Both West Chester United and Spirit United have a long history of serving the youth of Chester County and its surrounding area with quality soccer programs. "West Chester United Soccer Club is thrilled to provide a true academy program for elite players that have developed through our in-house and travel programs," stated Dan Kennedy, President of WCUSC. "By partnering with Spirit United on this venture," added Kennedy, "we are bringing together two strong clubs, both with a rich history of offering quality soccer programs to players who live in and around Chester County."

"Through the combined efforts of both organizations Penn Fusion will make an impact on soccer at the National level," said Dave Hatt, president of Spirit United. "This partnership," continued Hatt, "will provide an opportunity for local players to train and compete at the highest levels of soccer in our country. The resources being provided by

Spirit United and West Chester United will allow Penn Fusion to hit the ground running, form teams quickly, and provide instant credibility as a soccer power in the mid-Atlantic and beyond.”

The players and coaches of the Penn Fusion Soccer Academy will be an integral part of both the West Chester United and Spirit United soccer clubs. They will share in the camaraderie and community that is vital to the character and success of the two organizations. “Penn Fusion will participate in all programs related to our respective clubs,” said Kennedy, “ including support of our community outreach programs. West Chester and Spirit United share a common belief—the importance of reaching beyond our core membership to provide opportunities to those who would not be able to take advantage of our programs. Penn Fusion will play an important role within our existing and future outreach programs by supporting player clinics and other seasonal programs.”

For more information about the Penn Fusion Soccer Academy please view the website at [www.pennfusion.org](http://www.pennfusion.org).

#### About West Chester United Soccer Club:

In 1976 West Chester Soccer Club was formed. A merger with the Suburban Soccer Club in 1984 was the establishment of the current West Chester United Soccer Club. The mission of WCUSC is to provide the youth and adult community of Chester County the opportunity to play the game of soccer, and to create an environment where players of all ages and abilities can become involved in the game. WCUSC has supported youth soccer programs for over 3,500 boys and girls and approximately 300 adult players. The programs are supported by the club’s board of directors, coaches, staff and countless volunteers. WCUSC is represented regionally by the club’s travel program which consists of 56 teams and has celebrated 10 state championships. For more information about WCUSC, please visit our website at [www.wcusc.org](http://www.wcusc.org)

#### About Spirit United Soccer Club:

Spirit United Soccer Club was formed in 1982 and serves the youth of the greater Chester County area. As an equity investor in United Sports Training Center, Spirit United is able to provide a high standard in facilities for its over 34 travel teams and 400+ in-house recreational players. SUSC has developed and has been proudly represented by thousands of players throughout the years, many of whom have gone on to play at the collegiate and national level. Spirit has also produced many statewide, regional and national championship teams.

For more information on SUSC, visit [www.spiritunited.org](http://www.spiritunited.org).

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