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//FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE//

Washington Youth Soccer Development Philosophy brought to the Global Soccer Stage
Gary White, Technical Director of WA Youth Soccer invited by Asian Football Confederation to advise on soccer development

FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON (Tue., Nov. 22) – Washington Youth Soccer today announced Technical Director Gary White will be traveling to Guam on November 26-December 3 to conduct a series of technical programs and work with the Guam National Team’s coaching staff. White received an invitation to conduct this technical training by Richard Lai, an Executive Member of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and President of Guam Football Association (GFA).

The visit is a cross-cultural exchange of technical expertise where White will both share WA Youth Soccer’s development philosophy and bring back new trends and expertise garnered from his counterparts. During his time in Asia, White will work with the GFA to enhance their National Development Plan and will help to establish future programming that will impact the growth of the game in Guam and in the region. Soccer creates a community which establishes an instant bond with people across the word – this trip is a piece of WA Youth Soccer’s larger goal of fostering national and international relationships in the soccer community to benefit the development of coaches and players in the state.

White’s connection to the GFA was initially forged by former Washington Youth Soccer Board Member, Larry Mana’o. During a trip to the South Pacific games with his Native American/Samoan Soccer program, Mana’o met several National Federation representatives who were extremely interested in Washington Youth Soccer’s modern approach to coaching and soccer development. Upon return, Mana’o facilitated a connection which led Mr. Lai to White and the proposal to assist in the GFA’s development.

Mr. Lai, is extremely excited and pleased to welcome White, and had this to say about his upcoming visit, “Gary White’s international coaching experience, education and coaching accreditation is strongly recognized and respected on the international football stage. As a UEFA “A” licensed coach and recently selected member of The FA Elite Coaching License, Guam and Asia have much to gain from White’s expertise.”

Lai went on to add, “This is a tremendous opportunity for the development of both coaches and players in Guam. White’s wealth of knowledge and experience will only motivate and elevate the level of coaching and youth soccer in the country and in the region.”

Doug Andreassen, President of Washington Youth Soccer said, “Since becoming President, our Board of Directors and I have worked diligently to achieve many developmental goals including establishing our programs as the leading youth soccer organization in the country. One of our first steps toward this set of goals was the appointment of Gary White as Technical Director. Gaining International respect from Confederations and National Associations like the GFA shows we are well on our way to meeting our objectives.”

Adding to the opportunity is Japan’s recent triumph in the 2011 FIFA Women’s World Cup. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) is making strides to continue its growth and success both in short term and long term development. Just days after White’s visit, Mr. Lai will welcome FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter on Guam, another critical milestone for GFA & Asian Soccer.

Terry Fisher, CEO of Washington Youth Soccer said, “Gary continues to create connections with coaches around the world and this technical exchange with Guam is the next step in building these relationships. The relationship between WA Youth Soccer, the Guam National teams, and the AFC will bring greater coaching knowledge and new player development opportunities to our state in the years to come and we are excited to embark on this new opportunity.”

Gary White, Technical Director of Washington Youth Soccer added, “After numerous discussions with Mr. Richard Lai, it is evident why he is held in such high regard at the AFC and FIFA. His vision and desire to develop the game in his region and home country is both commendable and inspirational. I look forward to sharing Washington Youth Soccer’s development philosophy, and am equally excited for the opportunity to bring back ideas for future programs and initiatives that I will learn during my time in Asia.”

For updates on Gary’s experience with the GFA please stay posted to our newsletters, website and blogs.

About Washington Youth Soccer

Washington Youth Soccer is the largest youth soccer organization in Washington. Washington Youth Soccer is the state's affiliate for US Youth Soccer, which is the largest sports organization in the United States and the most populous member of the United States Soccer Federation, the governing body for soccer in the United States. Washington Youth Soccer is the sixth largest membership in the nation; our organization represents over 128,000 players (ages 4-19) and their families, 15,000 coaches on 12,000 teams and 6,500 referees in the state of Washington. Washington Youth Soccer’s mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of the State of Washington's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition.

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