

By Eddie Levin for mainlinemedianews.com

POSTED: December 29, 2015

Delaware Valley Friends soccer players learn valuable life lessons on international journey

Paoli - A quartet of soccer players from Delaware Valley Friends (DVFS) - freshmen Julian Crowe and Sufyaan Brown; sophomore Tyler Veale and senior Zachary Brown - received a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in November when they traveled to Morocco with DVFS Athletic Director Jalal Rhamirich, who coached the group, that also included nine players from a club team from Miami to take part in memorable journey that included performing community service projects in conjunction with participating in International Friendly's and two tournaments.

The community service projects including visiting hospitals and community centers where they gave out toys, books, clothes, soccer balls, cleats, jerseys, Nabi JR tablets, among other items.

Five years in the making, Mohamed Jamai, the former manager of the Moroccan National Team who now coaches a club team in Miami, orchestrated the trip that would take the team of 13 members to eight cities in 10 days.

Looking for players to round his roster Jamai looked no further



than Delaware Valley Friends and Jalal Rhamirich who played under his wing in two previous Indoor World Cups.

"I got a text from Mr Jamai saying 'Please call me,'" Rhamirich said after the announcement. "When he told I felt honored and truly humbled but I said, 'Are you kidding me?'" thinking about it now our history has a lot to do in besides just coaching, we share wisdom, love of the game and insight on life based on personal experiences."

Morocco was the first sovereign state to recognize the United State of America independence in 1777 and holds the longest unbroken treaty relationship with the U.S.

With Rhamirich on board to help fill out the roster, Jamai came to Delaware Valley Friends to watch a soccer match and hand pick the players.

"I felt proud to be selected," Crowe said in a recent interview. "For a new person who has never

seen me and thought I was that good to go to Morocco meant a lot. My parents were also proud.”

Veale added, “I was excited upon being selected. I have learned so much here at Delaware Valley Friends. To be able to have a chance to compare myself against International players was moving.”

Representing team USA, the DVFS kids had the chance to play against Professional Youth Academies and showcase their talent, love for the game and their central role and solidarity in the mission of global friendship and cultural understanding.

Zachary Brown, the only senior from DVFS selected took the opportunity to apply some life lessons learned at school that he hoped he could pass onto his younger teammates.

Delaware Valley Friends School is a national leader in the field of educating students with dyslexia, dysgraphia, executive function disorders, and other language-



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based learning differences located in the Philadelphia area. “I thought it was really important to learn other cultures on and off the field,” Zachary Brown said. “It was something to value that I hope the younger kids will appreciate as they get older.

“We had a fabulous time, and were treated like royalty from start to finish, everyone in Morocco were very friendly and welcoming and couldn’t do enough to please us, and I learned many valuable lessons including patience,” said Suffayan Brown, the Moroccan kids were very outgoing so I was very respectful of them and had to listen carefully and respond to their questions.”

The cities visited during the trip included Settat City, Casablanca City, Rabat City, Kenitra City, Fes

City, Tetouan City, M’diq City and Tanger City. While the on-field results were secondary the team did go 8-3 in the Friendly’s and also participated in two tournaments that featured a 2nd place finish and a 4th place finish.

Rhamirich said, “I’ve been coaching soccer for 22 years. I’ve instructed all kinds of players, I’ve always felt a responsibility to create fun and lasting memories...win, lose or draw. Along the way, I’ve been lucky to have tremendous support from our school and my student parents who’ve trusted me with their sons and you feel really good about your self at the end of the trip when your players tell you how much the game of soccer has been rewarding and how much fun they had.”

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reprinted from: www.mainlinemedianews.com December 29, 2015

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