



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:

Annie Hetman

Greater Cleveland Sports Commission

50 Public Square, Suite 950

Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Ph: 216.513.9208

Fax: 216.621.2773

[ahetman@clevelandsports.org](mailto:ahetman@clevelandsports.org)

**Sports Commission Announces Partnership With Premier Soccer Academies**

*Continental Cup International Youth Soccer Tournament Teams Up with Brad Friedel's Soccer Academy*

CLEVELAND, OH – January 11, 2008 – The Greater Cleveland Sports Commission is proud to announce that it has partnered with Brad Friedel's Premier Soccer Academy (PSA) for its proprietary event, Continental Cup, an international youth soccer tournament. 2008 marks the third year for the Continental Cup, which will be held at John Carroll University and Lost Nation Sports Park in Willoughby, Ohio July 2 – 6, 2008. The partnership is designed as a collaborative effort to cross-promote and mutually refer each group throughout the global soccer community.

Past Continental Cup participating countries included Barbados, Canada, Guatemala, India, and Mexico. For the 2008 Continental Cup, interest is high from counties such as Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Canada, Iceland, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Russia, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela.

The Premier Soccer Academy is located in Lorain, Ohio and is the first full-scholarship youth soccer academy in the United States. The initial launch of PSA occurred at Oberlin College in the summer of 2003. Roughly one hundred and fifteen players from various parts of the country attended. On the plush green fields of western Ohio, the nucleus of Brad Friedel, Barry Venison, Scott Sellars, Desmond Armstrong and Roy Tunks conducted the first of a series of high level training sessions for the eager participants. PSA's mission is to provide the highest quality soccer education, experience, training and enjoyment to talented soccer players without regard to economic or social condition.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with Premier Soccer Academy. We are confident that this relationship will foster an optimum soccer experience for youth soccer athletes from our community, the nation and the world," said David Gilbert, President and CEO of the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission.

The Continental Cup is sanctioned by Ohio Youth Soccer Association North (OYSAN). Additional sponsors include the Positively Cleveland!, Cuyahoga County, Kelme; John Carroll University, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum and Wal-Mart.





**July 2 - 6, 2008**

For more information on the Continental Cup visit [www.continental-cup.com](http://www.continental-cup.com) or call 216.363.1117. For questions or media credentials, please contact Annie Hetman of the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission at 216.363.1128.

For more information on Premier Soccer Academy visit [www.premiersocceracademies.com](http://www.premiersocceracademies.com) or call 866.454.4625.

*The mission of the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission is to measurably enhance the economy, image and quality of life in the Greater Cleveland community by attracting and creating significant sporting events and activities.*

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