



The 2007 Indigenous Soccer Cup

A Developmental Tournament of The Native American Soccer Project



Dear Players, Coaches, and Parents,

It was a tremendous honor and privilege this past summer watching over 450 Indigenous soccer players compete at the 2006 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) in Denver, Colorado. Inspired by the success of the NAIG soccer tournament, I believe it is our responsibility to carry on the spirit of the 2006 NAIG while offering positive youth development training through soccer. Toward this goal, I am pleased to announce the 2007 Indigenous Soccer Cup, a U.S. based soccer tournament, as a developmental event for the 2008 NAIG in Cowichan, British Columbia.

Hosts of the 2007 ISC include Southwest Youth Services (SYS), University of New Mexico American Indian Student Services (AISS), and the University of New Mexico Men's Soccer Team. Not only will the ISC offer the finest Indigenous soccer competition in North America, but it will also give Native youth athletes, coaches and chaperones access to powerful training workshops in life skills and college/university preparation.

Dr. Clayton Small (Northern Cheyenne), a community and youth leadership practitioner whose work is renowned across Indian Country, will lead the life & leadership skills workshops with supporting ISC staff. Dr. Small's unique interactive and positive facilitation will lead players and coaches through themes of prevention, wellness, leadership, creating positive change, healthy relationships, teambuilding & strategic planning.

In addition, all 2007 ISC participants will participate in college/university preparation workshops directed by University of New Mexico American Indian Student Services. These workshops are designed to help Native students identify and develop their educational and career goals as the future leaders of the Indigenous community. Coaches and chaperones have the opportunity to serve as mentors throughout this process.

On the field, players and coaches will carry their leadership and educational growth into tournament play, which will unfold over the week's intense 7v7 competition in three age brackets for male and female competitors: U-14, U-16, & U-19. In addition to tournament play, the University of New Mexico Men's Soccer Team, 2005 NCAA Division-I finalists, will coordinate special 2007 ISC soccer skills training sessions.

The 2007 ISC soccer experience is an opportunity to honor our most important commitments in life—to our goals, teams, families, and communities. As the 2007 ISC Tournament Director, I invite you to participate in the inaugural 2007 Indigenous Soccer Cup at the University of New Mexico. We look forward to hosting you in New Mexico, the Land of Enchantment.

Yours in soccer and wellness,

Alec Rekow
Tournament Director, 2007 Indigenous Soccer Cup
Co-Commissioner, 2006 NAIG Soccer Tournament