

Is Our System Working?

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Our Environment:

- Club system vs. European club system
- Our club is individual family run (\$\$\$) vs. their club is privately run
- Olympic Development Program
- NCAA as feeder system
 - *Strength's: opportunity to play, cost
 - *Weaknesses: rules that do not conform to FIFA; rules in order not to negatively impact other collegiate sports; men vs. women
- MLS, USL, D3, PDL, W-1 & W2, WUSA (?)
- Project 40, U.S. u-17 residency
- Regionalized; climatized; do we lack a national style of play?
- Soccer is not a major sport
- Lack of free play; kids not playing much on their own or in street/playground
- Kids running from activity to activity; April 22 and our kids have basketball conflicts

The Facts:

- Men ranked 30th in world (3rd most populous country); Women #1
- World Player of Years
 - Men: *Brazil 7 (3) (3) Women: Germany 3 (1) (1)
 - *France 3 (4) (2) USA 2 (4) (1)
 - *Italy 2 (1) (1) ***Mia Hamm and Tiffany Milbrett
- Current World Rankings
 - Men: 1. Argentina Women: 1. USA
 - 2. Italy 2. Germany
 - 3. Brazil 3. Norway
 - 4. France 4. Sweden
 - 5. Germany 5. Korea
 - 6. England
 - 7. Netherlands *Olympic Gold: '96, '04
 - 8. Portugal
 - 9. Czech Republic
 - 10. Spain *WC winners in '91, '99,
 - 30. USA**
 - 114. Liberia
 - 152. Sierra Leone

Progress Report: (opinion)

- Project 2010----???????????? \$50 million and what?
- We spend thousands of \$\$\$ per child to play but have yet to produce a world class field player (men's side). The world has quickly caught up on the women's side
- We spend \$\$\$ on trainers-then kids don't go work on their own
- We are focused on results way too young! Leagues, tournaments, Premier teams, etc.
- Focus should be solely on Development at early age (until 12 or 13)
- Allen Iverson, Michael Jordan etc. etc,
- "Kid playing soccer or a soccer playing kid"?
- Too many parents making this decision for our kids
- Jason trading in his lunch & we have to hammer our kids to arrive on time and with equipment, and balls properly inflated
- College coach (D1 within 80 miles of Cincinnati) going overseas because our kids are "too soft"
- \$\$\$ and parents controlling the decision making; Tournaments (Columbus Blast Tournament where u-14 played 3 games in less than 24 hours)