

## **Gutsy Titans win SRSL League Championship**

The Ancaster Titans U13 Girls capped off a great 2007 season and were rewarded for all of their hard work by finishing as the South Region Soccer League (SRSL), Second Division League Champions. A remarkable achievement that speaks volumes for the character of the girls who with more than two months to go were in third place, six points behind the league leaders.

In keeping with the teams' "Passion, Intensity, Guts" motto they responded by finishing the last 11 games of the season with an impressive streak of 7 wins, 3 draws and just a single loss. This left the team with an overall record of 10-3-5 including an impressive 6-0-3 undefeated home record and a one point win over the second place Brams United squad.

In tournament play the girls competed with the best including a second place finish at the Gates Youth Soccer Tournament in Rochester, NY and impressive performances against first division and higher division clubs at the West Niagara, Ancaster Heritage Days and Brantford Soccer Classic tournaments. In addition the Titans also played in the Ontario Cup for the first time with the girls acquitting themselves and learning some valuable lessons and skills from some of the best teams in Ontario including the eventual Ontario Cup winners the Oakville Titans.

The coaching team of Head Coach Paul Buchanan, Assistant Coaches Roger Ricketts, Ron Morrison and Vicki White and team Manager Cory Bradley are very proud to be associated with such a great bunch of young ladies and their performance throughout the season and the way they responded to key injuries, vacation absences and to the challenge of exceeding our team goal of finishing at least third by winning the League Championship. "A lot of different players stepped up in an impressive way during the season and as a team everybody contributed to our success and exemplified our Work Hard. Play to Win. Have Fun" team motto" said Buchanan.

With great service from the defence and mid-field the speed and skill of the Titans forwards led by Katherine Roberge and Lindsay Nedelko and ably supported by Hayley Buchanan, Lindsay Nedelko, Ariana Orasanin and Victoria Pappas formed the most dominant forward line-up in the league, turning opposition defences inside out resulting in many scoring opportunities including a number of highlight reel goals.

As the important link between the defence and the forwards the creative and talented Titans mid-field led by Rachael Holmes with great support from Rebecca Lepore, Assistant Captain Maggie MacDonald, Harley Morrison, Melanie Palvolgyi and Julia Shen dominated the centre of the park defending when needed, winning the ball in the all important middle of the field and orchestrating many attacking raids by controlling the ball before providing it to the forwards to finish off.

As prolific as the Titans were on offense, they were just as stingy defensively, with Captain Ally Scione and Assistant Captain Delaney Cox anchoring defence at sweeper and stopper with great support from Lauren Bott, Kyla Carroll, Andrea Deluca, Haley Fitzpatrick, Michelle Ogrodnik and Victoria Ricketts ensuring that goals were very hard to come by. In addition to their strong defensive play their quick and accurate clearing passes led to many scoring opportunities at the opposite end of the field. "As much as we like to score goals our defensive players proved that good defence is just as exciting" said Buchanan

The team was also fortunate enough to have a goalie, Heather Bradley who in her first full season as a goal keeper developed into one of the best keepers in the league thanks to her passion for the position, her willingness to learn and some great technical instruction from and Alex Osatchuk and Mladen Vugrinicek. Heather played in all but one of the 18 League games recording 3 shutouts and all of the tournaments keeping us in a number of games with key saves and great leadership at the back.

The Titans coaching staff and players would like to thank their parents, sponsors DeLuca Roofing, COMPuFIT Technology Implementation, Old Fashioned Ice and Absolute Soccer and AYSC for their support this season. We look forward to your continuing support as we take on a new challenge with the teams' promotion to SRSL's First Division in 2008.

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**Back Row:** Vicki White, Paul Buchanan, Melanie Palvolgyi, Katherine Roberge, Delaney Cox, Michelle Ogradnik, Ally Scione, Victoria Ricketts, Rebecca Lepore, Hayley Buchanan, Ariana Orasanin, Roger Ricketts, Ron Morrison

**Middle Row:** Lindsay Nedelko, Lauren Bott, Harley Morrison, Haley Fitzpatrick, Maggie MacDonald, Julia Shen

**Front Row:** Rachael Holmes, Andrea Deluca, Heather Bradley, Kyla Carroll, Victoria Pappas.