

ESI NEWSLETTER

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A BOLD & UNIQUE VISION FOR PLAYER DEVELOPMENT



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PLAYER HIGHLIGHT: KAILÉ AUVRAY



ESI MAKES THE TOURNAMENT



GUADELOUPE BOUND

KAÏLÉ AUVRAY SELECTED FOR THE UNITED STATES' U17 MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM

ESI is proud to announce that ESI alumnus Kaïlé Auvray has been called up to the U.S. U17 Men's National Team. This significant honor is bestowed on players by the US Soccer Federation. The U.S. Soccer Federation selects the best players to play on the U.S. National Team. Using their own scouting process, players generally are selected from MLS academies, Development Academies, and players in European Academies. When a player gets called-up, an official letter from the national team federation is sent to his/her respective club.

"It's a huge honor to have been called up to the National team," Kaïlé said. "Personally, I see this as a very important milestone in my career."

What led up to this point? Hard work, determination and the foundational techniques earned at ESI.

THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND ESI

Kaïlé Auvray was one of the motivating factors for the development of ESI and now, while playing in Europe, his success continues to propel players to the Institute's program. Having trained with ESI since he was nine years old, Kaïlé still credits ESI's high-quality sessions and the foundational focus on technique with helping him get to where he is today. Kaïlé appreciates how playing with ESI prepared him for a French Ligue 1 Academy, Lille OSC's U16 team.

"The very high-quality skills training that we did at ESI really had an impact on my development," Kaïlé said. "In my free time, I still sometimes return to the ESI drills I used to practice, just to stay sharp."

Kaïlé attributes the mentoring of his dad, Stéphane Auvray, as critical to helping not only himself, but all players transform and advance their game to achieve success. "He (Stéphane) is able to look at a player and immediately identify strengths / weaknesses, and what is necessary in order to improve," Kaïlé said. "His ability to analyze and understand players based on his experience is impressive. His focus is helping each player grow and fully realize their potential."

A DAY IN THE LIFE

A typical day for Kaïlé at Lille OSC involves signing in for breakfast at 7:30am, training at 10:30am, and

participating in two to three hours of school in the afternoon. Kaïlé travels every other week for games on the road and during tournaments he can be gone for 2-3 days.

Being in Europe, away from his family, and away from the Institute that his father runs is not easy, but he still connects with his dad regularly for game analysis and appreciates the insight he has provided him throughout this journey.

"My dad's insight and experience definitely helped me understand the requirements and what it takes to aspire to become a pro," Kaïlé said. "His understanding of the game helped me develop a certain level of game intelligence from a young age."

LIFE LESSONS LEARNED

Growing up in and around the game of soccer went hand-in-hand with life lessons. Kaïlé learned at ESI that confidence can be developed through hard work. The backbone of ESI training is hard work and technical growth. Accepting these as foundational characteristics to success allows players to progress long-term.

"At ESI, first and foremost, the priority is for the player to improve individually, which provides a healthy working atmosphere for all players," said Kaïlé. "My training at ESI put a big emphasis on player development which helped grow faster."

GIVING IT HIS ALL

For now, Kaïlé aspires to score goals and keep performing at the highest possible level. Realizing his full potential is what drives him. While he is most proud of his game winning goal in a 3-2 win versus Martinique in a Concacaf tournament, he hopes to win a World Cup title someday. These goals seem attainable through his exceptional ability to impact games, hard work and acceptance of sacrifices that are fundamental to his way of life.

"The hardest choices require the strongest of wills," said Kaïlé. "The sacrifices are countless and never ending. In terms of work ethic, I feel that in most cases, as Drake says, 'It is what it is, trust me you get what you give.'"



Kaïlé Auvray



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PARENT SPOTLIGHT: ANTONNYA AUVRAY

Antonnya is Kailé Auvray's mom, the very first ESI player.

While she played an early role in ESI's development, she is – first and foremost – a parent. Like all parents, she has the desire to help her children achieve their goals. ESI was born out of this basic parental need to help a child advance their soccer technical knowledge and follow their dreams to become a professional soccer player.

"Kailé expressed to Stéphane that he needed his help in advancing and progressing with soccer the way that he felt he should be," Antonnya said. "And Stéphane recognized the importance of this request. It was from this need and want that we started to offer kids like Kailé - what they also needed and wanted. We filled a void that other clubs were not."

A FAMILY PASSION

Since its development, ESI has been the Auvray family's baby. The Institute's direction and goals resonated with so many soccer families identifying with what was lacking within the surrounding metro area. "The reasons for starting ESI were so close to our heart," she said. "We wanted to help players accomplish their dreams and offer them the same thing we wanted our kid to have."

The differentiator for ESI from other clubs in the area is that its existence is primarily to support player achievements. Everything that is done at ESI is done to help the players reach their goals. As many of the ESI elite players have identified, Stéphane puts himself in the shoes of the player and helps them develop from where they are at. This has been no different for his son, an ESI team player, or a player involved in small group training. "Stéphane's mission is about the player," Antonnya said. "He will literally give his last breath to help a player get to where they should go."



ESI'S PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Kailé has benefitted from both ESI training and the technical and mental development that is at the core of ESI curriculum. The expertise and knowledge learned at ESI has gotten him to where he is now – playing for a French Ligue 1 soccer academy, Lille OSC. Stéphane helped Kailé focus on not only the foundational, technical skills but also the mental aspect of the sport. Kailé's attitude and hard work were the culmination of lessons learned from training at ESI and passed down from Stéphane's personal experiences as a professional soccer player.

"No matter what position Kailé finds himself in, Stéphane is able to give input and advice," Antonnya said. "Stéphane really studies the game and has been a polyvalent player and been in so many positions. This has been invaluable insight for Kailé."

A MODEL FOR LIFE LESSONS

Life lessons and a general "ESI spirit" are another byproduct of ESI training. While Kailé learned some of his own personal lessons at ESI, Antonnya can also see that it spills over to all the kids that train and develop through the Institute's model. From increased analytical skills, to organization, nutrition and self-evaluation – ESI players transform during the process of player development – both on and off the field.

"It is hard to put it into words, but it is a transformation," Antonnya said. "You see it in the kids' attitude. Stéphane gives them something intangible. You have to really see the player when they enter and then a couple years into their time at ESI and you can identify it within them."

As a parent who knows ESI at the core and who also shares in the evolution of a professional soccer player, Antonnya is able to give soccer parents the advice that has helped her along the way.



Antonnya & Kailé



We wanted
to
help players
accomplish
their
dreams . . .



DREW ROSENTHAL IS BACK FROM SPAIN

06 Drew Rosenthal made a splash in Spain, representing the United States in the US Youth Futsal 2006 Boys Squad in the 2019 Barcelona Spain International trip. The US team had 3 wins and 1 loss. Great play by Drew with goals scored and epic comeback games. Way to represent, Drew!



LUKE GRIFFITHS IS FC MALAGA CITY BOUND

04 Luke Griffiths was selected for the recruiting class of FC Malaga City and will join the Academy team in July 2020. He will have the opportunity to be fully submerged in the life of a European professional soccer player with training 6 days per week and access to experienced coaches. Luke and his family credit ESI for advancing his game and helping him reach this goal. Congratulations to Luke on his hard work and persistence are paying off!

For the Latest ESI News check us out on the web!

WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR



Many players joining ESI later in their development have acknowledged regrets for not starting earlier and benefiting from quality development and customized training that ESI offers. Players and families often lean

toward winning teams and clubs instead of going through the hard work of the road to improvement. Placing winning as a priority does not translate into individual player improvement.

- STÉPHANE AUVRAY

PLAYER CORNER: SCORING & REACHING GOALS

As a sophomore on the 03 team, Luke Hoelting has been playing with ESI since he was a 5th grader in elementary school. Prior to joining the team, he attended group trainings under Stéphane Auvray. "ESI has challenged me and provided me with opportunities that I would not have gotten at another club," Luke said.

Luke has taken advantage of as many international trips as possible. He has been to Guadeloupe 3 times, with the 4th time coming up this March 2020. In addition, he has been to France 2 times with the 3rd time coming up this summer. He enjoys the increased level of play and the chance to improve level of play that the international experiences offer.

"In Guadeloupe the players are bigger and really technically sound. This makes you play quicker and faster and you have to do the little things better to be able to compete," Luke said. "In France the players are extremely good, and the level of play is heightened even more. You have to raise your game to remain competitive."



As a center forward on the team, he remembers his first ever goal with ESI as being a goal he scored in France. It was off a free kick. "I remember because Stéphane had told me where to go and what to do," Luke recalled. "And I scored it."

Luke emphasizes Stéphane's success as his coach and his ability to coach players is due to his innate ability to connect to players. While Stéphane is a coach, he is not always directing play, he lets the team figure out things for themselves.

"He knows how to motivate and inspire players," Luke said. "He can see the game and analyze play very quickly and can make the needed tactical adjustments. He also knows when we need to figure things out for ourselves and he lets us do it."

Beyond the game Luke understands that ESI has been key to the development of him as a player and a person. His off the field personality has been impacted by lessons learned at ESI. Off the field, he recognizes that his confidence has soared as his on field play has improved.

"One thing Stéphane taught me was to have personality on the field," Luke said. "I think because of that I have done that outside of soccer too. I'm not as shy now. And I know what I want when it comes to my life goals."

Luke enjoys ESI and understands what it has meant to him. While a man bun sets him physically apart from most players, the training he has received has transformed him and made him stand out in his on field performances.

"Because of my training at ESI I know how to use my body well and I have developed good technique," Luke noted. "The main thing is that I score goals and not many players can score goals like I can. I owe this to my training at ESI and to Stéphane – he knows what he is doing – and you can see as a player you are improving. Developmentally, I think Stéphane is the best coach to help transform players."

ESI INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

ESI U17S TO PLAY IN FIFA APPROVED INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT IN FRANCE

The ESI U17 team was accepted to participate in the 38th edition of "Le Festival d'Armor." This FIFA Approved International Tournament is one of the most competitive French international tournaments for U17s. The tournament and all games will take place in Plougonvelin, France (near Brest), from May 30 to June 1, 2020.

"Traveling to France allows our players to play against professional teams and future professional players," Stéphane said. "There is no better game environment for our players to keep improving and remain ambitious."

The selected ESI team members will spend two weeks in Plougonvelin, leaving Kansas City on Saturday May 23rd and return Tuesday June 2nd. The program will include one week of training, a local friendly game and the tournament.

Sixteen players are included in the roster with ESI pulling together a competitive team.

"I explained to our players that this is the biggest opportunity they had so far to showcase themselves," Stéphane said. "First in front of European clubs, but also in the US with highlights of games against professional teams."

For additional information on the tournament, check out the web site at:

www.festival-armor.com



GUADELOUPE BOUND: ESI SOCCER TAKES FLIGHT ON THE BUTTERFLY ISLAND

Guadeloupe, France is known as the butterfly island due to its shape. And just as butterflies transform from crawling caterpillars to flying insects, so do ESI's soccer players on the annual visit to the island.

"So far the Guadeloupe trip has been the most fruitful camp we've done," Stéphane Auvray said. "Our players train with future professional players in their environment under the guidance of French Football Federation (FFF) coaches."



This year the program has even been expanded to ages from U14 to U18 players. The two FFF programs in Guadeloupe now include the Pôle Espoir Guadeloupe (U14 and U15) and the Centre Elite des Regions Françaises d'Amérique CERFA (U16 to U18). The U16 to U18 group has been added for continued development of players from Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guyana.

The FFF operates 12 elite academies throughout France and the Pôle Espoir Guadeloupe is one of them. These centers have a high reputation of producing some of the most gifted French players. For the past 4 years, ESI players have been offered the opportunity to attend Guadeloupe training for 10 days and have been fortunate to train with soccer athletes that have committed or joined the following French professional clubs: AS Monaco, Lyon, Lille, Lens, Rennes, Béziers, Clermont-Ferrand, Auxerre, Lille, and Paris FC.

"This camp has always been an eye opener for our players," Stéphane said. It helps them evaluate their level, raise their expectations and improve. Some also come back home with more determination and ambition."



Guadeloupe FR

ESI U17 & U15 EVENTS

ESI FUTSAL REGIONAL WINNERS & NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The United States Youth Futsal (USYF) Central Regional Championships took place January 17- 19 and ESI was represented by 3 teams. ESI participated in three age groups with 03, 04 and 06 teams. Only the 03-team made it to the semi-finals in their bracket, but all players benefitted from the experience.

“Overall the players learned something about themselves at Futsal Regionals that will help improve both their tactical and mental aspects of play in the future,” Coach Stéphane Auvray said.

There were 11 USYF Regionals across the country, providing top level Futsal teams from surrounding states to compete for the title of Regional Champion and an opportunity to qualify for the **USYF National Championship** on February 14-17, 2020.

Two ESI teams qualified for the 2020 US Youth Futsal National Championships and will play teams around the country in the 03 and the 05 brackets. **Games will begin Friday 2/14 at 6pm with finals played on Monday, 2/17.** This tournament has 178 teams from 17 states and is the largest Youth Futsal National Championship in the US. Come out and cheer us on!



TEAM SCHEDULES FEB - MARCH 2020

Feb 14 – Feb 17:

Futsal Nationals (U15-U17 Teams)

Feb 26:

U17 Scrimmage (weather permitting)

Feb 29 – March 1:

League Games (U15-U17 Teams)

March 10 – March 21:

Guadeloupe International Trip (U15-U17 players)

May 24 – June 2:

France Tournament (U17 Team)

