



## 2018/2019 Lancaster FC Elite Soccer 2001/2002 Birth Year – 18U Boys



During the 2018-2019 season, the Lancaster/Depew Soccer Club will field an elite team for players born in 2001 and looking for year-round, high-level training and a higher level of competition. This program is in addition to the traditional Travel teams offered by the soccer club and is an alternative to premier programs being marketed by outside organizations.

The goal of this program is to provide training and competition at the premier level while keeping the upfront and travel costs to a third or half of traditional premier programs.

For the past 5 years this program has been successfully implemented with three different teams. The original FC team that was formed in 2013 consistently ranked in the top 10 of New York State.

### **About the Coach**

The elite team will be coached by Chuck Donner, an active coach within the Lancaster/Depew Soccer Club who is on the club board, serves as the field/facilities coordinator and has been coaching kids aged 3-18 in Cheektowaga and Lancaster for over 30 years. Coach Donner played soccer at Canisius College and currently holds a USSF National D License.

His goal has always been to develop players who are technically strong with a high level of “soccer intelligence” while teaching a possession style of play with an attacking mindset. His coaching style stems from his youth soccer experiences with a high-level Clarence team that was coached by Jerry Oman (who played in the Bundesliga - the top German League) and Luis Dabo (who played for SL Benfica in the Portuguese Premier League and coached the Buffalo Stallions).

### **Program Details**

#### **Indoor Training**

Between November and Mid-April, the Lancaster FC team will train 3 days per week at Sahlens Sports Park.

#### **Outdoor Training**

Between Mid-April and the end of July, the team will train 2-3 days per week. Weather permitting, we may train outside at the Westwood Park turf field in October and November.

#### **Indoor Games**

The budget includes entry into the (8 game) Sahlens Jan-Feb league along with entry into the (8 game) Sahlens Mar-Apr league. We will also compete in the (9 game) Spire Institute (Ohio) Premier Indoor League with 3 game dates between Nov-Mar, playing 3 games on each of those days.

#### **Outdoor Games**

The budget includes entry into the (10-12 game) BWNYSL league. We will not be playing in the Thruway League because the cost to travel great distances (Binghamton, Watertown) for single games does not make sense. We will play 2-3 friendly matches against Thruway League teams or high-level competition in April 2017 at the Westwood Park turf field in Lancaster.

Additional friendly matches will be scheduled when possible.

### **Tournaments**

The team budget includes entry into a minimum of 5 tournaments (15-20 games). In the past the tournaments have included Nike Cup (Dublin, OH) in April, Memorial Day Classic (Edinboro, PA) in May or the Erie Premier Cup (Edinboro, PA) in June, Lakefront Classic (Rochester, NY) in June, Cobras (Rochester, NY) in July and the End of Summer Classic (Lancaster, NY) in July. Tournament selection may change based upon player availability.

### **State Cup**

The team may compete in the New York State Championship series in May. If we decide to skip the State Cup another tournament may be added in its place.

### **Program Cost**

The program cost is \$1350 and can be paid in full or in two installment payments. Once you have been offered a roster position, a \$675 deposit is required to reserve your spot on the team.

A fund raiser may be run to defray the cost of the program or purchase warm-ups, etc.

To keep the cost down, coaching time is volunteered. There are no hidden costs in the program.

Program fees are non-refundable.

### **Included with the Program:**

- Everything listed above. Premier level training, over 80 training sessions and 50 plus games.
- Home and away uniform kit (jerseys, shorts, socks).
- 3 training shirts. One must be worn to all training sessions.
- Player evaluations.
- Players pass, insurance, league fees.

### **Questions**

If you have additional questions, please contact Chuck Donner via email ([cdonner@papercards.com](mailto:cdonner@papercards.com)) or by calling 907-7750.

### **Tryout Information**

Saturday, July 7 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 AM - Noon	Lancaster Middle School	89 Madison St, Lancaster
Thursday, July 12 <sup>th</sup>	7:00-8:30 PM	Walden Pond Park	Walden Ave & Ransom Rd

Registration is \$15 and must be done online at [www.ldsoccer.org](http://www.ldsoccer.org). Go to the “Programs > Lancaster FC Elite” page for a link to the online registration page.

## Program References ~ Parent Comments

**All of these comments were provided voluntarily. Feel free to contact anyone who has provided their phone number or email address.**

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I am sending this email as a reference for the premier team that you have coached, that my son Jake has played on the past 2 years.

The “possession” style of play on this team in which first touch and passing are stressed has led this team to be very successful in indoor play, outdoor summer league play and in tournaments. This team has been dominant in most matches and competitive in all matches. They have never been dominated in any match, ever. They have won a tournament and been in the final championship game in most of the tournaments they have entered.

This program is the most affordable premier program in the area. The affordability however does not equate to mediocre results. Rather the opposite. We have been involved with other premier programs in which the coaching pales in comparison while the cost is greater. The organization, communication, scheduling, ability to gain field time for training and scrimmages and professionalism displayed by the coaches is outstanding. Without exception, a plan is put in place for training and competition and the plan is followed. This has been very beneficial to my wife and I as we try keep up with having 4 children involved in numerous activities. There are never last minute changes or additions, as we have experienced with other premier clubs.

From the beginning, this has been a positive experience for Jake. He was finally able to train and play with a team that has players of the same caliber that he is. His growth as a soccer player has been nothing short of outstanding. He has improved so greatly that I would call it “quantum leap” improvement. To this point, in his junior year of varsity soccer at Attica HS, he scored 3 goals. In his senior year, he scored 25 goals. Additionally, he was selected to all star status for the 3rd year, led his team to the sectional finals game and was selected as the Genesee Region Player of the year, which is the 1st time in the school history that an Attica soccer player won this award. Attica plays in Section 5, which encompasses the Rochester area schools, that have always had exceptionally strong soccer programs.

His development and improvement as a striker can be attributed to the coaching he has received in training and games. The insight and knowledge that you and your coaches provided was invaluable. He was recruited by several colleges and is going to play at Paul Smith’s College near Saranac Lake, NY. We expect that he will continue to play well and thrive at the college level.

We give our full endorsement to this program and look forward to having our younger son Zack become a member of the 2001 squad so that he too can experience the coaching and improvement that his brother did. Thank you for your efforts and dedication.

Best Regards,  
David A. Kowalewski  
Ferguson Electric Service Co., Inc.  
p: 716.853.3321  
June 2016

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A few years ago my son's travel soccer team was breaking up because a large number of players deciding to concentrate on hockey. My son's passion was soccer and he wanted to play on a team that trained year round. We had concerns about the local Premier level teams due to the experience my older son and his teammates had with these teams (high cost, unorganized, ineffective coaching, insufficient playing time). At this time, we found out Chuck Donner was putting together a team that planned to train year round. We knew of Chuck's reputation so my son and a few of his teammates tried out for and made the team. I know every parent and player is happy with the decision we made to be a part of Chuck's Lancaster FC team.

My son has been playing on this team for the past three years and he has grown tremendously as a soccer player. Chuck is a professional and knowledgeable coach who always has the best interest of the player in mind. His training is top notch and he provides constructive feedback to the players so they know what they need to work on to improve. Chuck is very organized so we always knew well in advance practice, game and tournament dates. The cost was very reasonable for a Premier level soccer program and broken down into reasonable payments.

The team has been very successful, winning their division last year and competing successfully in tournaments against very high level competition. As a testament to Chuck's coaching, most of the players have remained on the team over the past three years and plan to play together again next summer even though most will be off to college in the fall. I highly recommend Chuck Donner as a soccer coach and I know he will be dedicated to making your son's soccer experience a positive one.

Debbie Sorrentino  
West Seneca  
481-7371  
June 2016

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Hi Chuck,

I wanted to write a quick paragraph for you regarding the Lancaster FC team. David has truly enjoyed the 2 years of being on the Lancaster FC team with you as the Head Coach. When we signed up 2 years ago, we really weren't sure how we would like everything. We did know David really needed to get onto a better team with bigger challenges for him.

After the first few months, we honestly were extremely impressed with your coaching, the practice sessions and also the level of competition that David was now playing against. We could not believe the amount of soccer practices, games and tournaments that were included into the price of the season. You have done an absolutely incredible job in securing the amount of activities you have included for the price each of us pay for them to play. Your dedication to the team has also been amazing. You have always been at practices and coach and even participate in almost all the activities the team is doing. This shows a lot to these kids.

The only regret I have is that we did not find out about the opportunity earlier. David would have loved to of played on this team before these past 2 years too.

If any parent has any doubts or questions at all on participating in one of your teams, please feel free to have them call me at 570-4672. I would gladly talk to them.

Thanks again for everything you have done for David 2 years.

Have a nice evening!

Dave Mack  
570-4672  
June 2016

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Coach Donner has been coaching my boys since they were 6 years old. When he decided to form the Lancaster FC team we immediately signed up for tryouts because we knew the team would be competitive, well coached and would continually advance the skills of my children. I have found the team to be at the level if not higher than the premier and elite teams that we play in our tournaments.

Jay Stockslader  
Lancaster, NY  
June 2016

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To whom it my concern:

Sam has been part of the Lancaster FC team from the beginning when the team was formed at U16. We have not had one bad experience with the team. Sam has shown so much growth as a soccer player with the team. We had trained two to three times a week and the training showed in his ability to be a smarter and more successful team player on the field. We were concerned at the beginning about the cost and the travel time but the cost is very reasonable with the amount of tournaments and training you receive. Coach Donner is an excellent coach and the boys always looked up to him as being very professional in his coaching style. I can't say enough good things about the program and the coaching staff.

Shirleen Bartz  
822-0095  
June 2016

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June 28.2016

To whom it may concern,

After many years of having our boys participate in competitive/travel soccer we have experienced many coaches along the way. We have not found a coach that compares to Chuck Donner in either the level of commitment to the boys, strong work ethic nor pure skill in coaching competitive soccer. Chuck's style of coaching is disciplined and he holds the boys to a very high standard. He is committed to developing each team member and expects hard work from each player, but also works hard along with them. Our older son had learned and grown so much in his skill and level of play that we requested our younger son train with the Chuck to benefit from his coaching expertise.

Chuck started the first year with boys who had not played together and developed a team. The boys not only won their division but also performed very well in Ohio and Pennsylvania tournaments against top ranked teams in the state.

The boys also grew a strong bond to each other and to Chuck. He is strict with them but also has fun with them and encourages comradery and friendship. The boys grew such a bond that they continued to have a team even though some went away to college. Chuck is committed 110% to the team and has winning results to prove his leadership and skill that he develops in the boys.

We would highly recommend Chuck as a coach and have seen huge gains in our son's level of play from working with him and being a part of his team.

Sincerely,  
Tony & Chris Lanza  
(716) 681-8756

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My son has played for Chuck Donner since the FC team began in 2013. I am truly impressed at his dedication and knowledge of the game of soccer. He truly knows every player's strengths and weaknesses and tries to make each player work to the best of their ability. My son has grown in the knowledge of the game as well as an individual player. I have seen many coaches degrade and humiliate their players when they make an error... I have never seen this on our sidelines, only encouragement and positive comments. My son has grown both professionally and personally as a member of this soccer team. The coaches are beyond my expectations and go that extra mile to help each and every player. Any player should be lucky to have Chuck (Joe or Norb) as their coaches. Again, their dedication goes beyond any coach that I have seen in the travel or high school level. If you have any question, please feel free to call me at 716-867-1912!

Lisa Gabalski  
Elma, NY  
June 2016

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As a parent in the second year with the team and a son who is a senior in high school I am glad that Donner is reaching out to coach other teams. When someone has the knowledge and passion for soccer as he does it should be shared with those desiring it. He knows about differences in personality - that what is right for one child is not necessarily right for another. He understands each child's motivation for being on the team. Some kids are very serious about the team, others are there because a best friend is playing. He is able to understand and deal with, differences in children's physical and emotional maturity, and appreciate children for their individuality. He is skilled at teaching the fundamentals of the sport. Skill development is a major reason kids play - most children want to improve their abilities, and getting better at their sport is a prime source of enjoyment. He Teaches young athletes to enjoy success and to respond to failure with renewed determination. He teaches them Long term goals helping them develop physically, psychologically, and socially that should take precedence over the goal of winning. He emphasizes improvement, competence, and striving for excellence. Teaches and models conduct that reflects basic desirable values.

Angela Aures  
[Mickey1961@aol.com](mailto:Mickey1961@aol.com)  
June 2016

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My son has been playing soccer since he was four years old. At the age of 8 he started playing travel soccer until the age of 13 mostly being coached by myself or coaches known through acquaintances. At that age he asked if he could try out for some new clubs to play a higher level of soccer, premier or elite. My son had surpassed what I could teach him and needed a more experienced coach with a higher talent level of players. Problem was that most top level premier/elite clubs were charging around \$3000-\$4000 per year. By word of mouth we heard about Coach Donner and a Lancaster Premier Club that he was starting up.

Immediately I noticed a difference in my sons play. Within a year he became more skilled then I ever thought he would be. The practices were more intense and the level of competition far surpassed anything we had seen prior. The price was about half of the other top clubs in the area were charging. Coach Donner worked in a group setting as well as individual coaching as needed per player. The environment is competitive but team oriented unlike some other clubs.

The past three years have given my son the confidence and skills needed to where he is now being pursued by several Division I colleges.

David Roncone  
June 2016