

BVBIA Colorado - Fall 2023

Hello BVBIA Colorado Families!

Welcome to another Fall season – we're so excited to have you here. It is already looking to be another amazing season of youth soccer!

In August, we held a pre-season camp led by BVBIA Colorado coaching staff and guest Coach David Flavius, who is a former Saint Lucian National Team player and current Director of Coaching for BVBIA Pittsburgh. The Club had teams compete in two pre-season tournaments: Pride of the Rockies in Colorado Springs and the Broomfield Shootout in Broomfield, Colorado.

Over the summer, the Club had some staffing changes. Nathan Walker joined the BVBIA Colorado Family as the new Executive Director. Our Club's founding Director of Coaching, Nancy Sibley, stepped down after three years of dedicated service, and Coach Kirstin Gungler was selected as her replacement. Pueblo continues to be led by Director of Coaching Drew Irwin. We also welcomed our new Registrar, Madeline Case, to the family.

We would like to take a moment and remind parents and families of some important information:

Severe weather: Severe weather is always a risk, and we here in Colorado are no strangers to it. The safety of our players, staff, and families are one of the top concerns, which is why we adhere to the Club's Severe Weather Policy. While lightning is a fading concern later in the season, we follow the 10-mile rule – if lightning is detected or reported within 10 miles, all players, staff, and families must seek shelter in their vehicles or an enclosed building and remain there until no lightning has been detected for 30 minutes. Keep an eye on social media, your email, and SportsEngine for messages from your coaches or other club staff concerning severe weather and any schedule changes.

Remember the 24-hour rule: BVBIA Colorado asks that parents who have concerns or issues they would like to raise with their player's coach wait at least 24 hours before reaching out to your player's coach – in the heat of the moment, regretful words could be exchanged, but waiting 24 hours allows cooler heads to prevail.

Zero tolerance for disrespectful behavior: BVBIA Colorado has no tolerance for any Club player, staff member, coach, or family member being disrespectful towards any coach, referee, player, parent, spectator, or staff member. Repeated offenses of this policy can result in suspension or dismissal from the Club, and potentially even sanctions from the Colorado Soccer Association.

Share with us on social media: We love to see pictures of our players and coaches in action! Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram and send us pictures and videos of those amazing moments you capture!

Thank you all for choosing BVBIA Colorado and have an amazing season!

Heja BVB!



Need to reach us?

email: colorado@bvbinternationalacademy.com

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BVBIA Colorado Directors



Executive Director – Nathan Walker

Nathan has been a part of the soccer community in Colorado for more than 15 years. With Real Colorado in Denver, Nathan served as an Age Group and Development Coordinator for the U11-14 Competitive Girls and Boys programs. He has coached several teams in both state and national platforms from the U11-19 age groups, most recently in the inaugural USYS Elite 64 program.

Nathan currently holds a National Diploma through the United Soccer Coaches association and a USSF E license and had the honor of receiving his Coerver coaching certificate learning directly from founder Charlie Cooke. Nathan holds a Master's Degree in Sport Science and Soccer Coaching from Ohio University as well as a Master's in Business from the University of Texas at Austin.

As Executive Director, Nathan oversees and supports the Club's Directors of Coaching and Program Coordinators in both the Colorado Springs and Pueblo areas.



Director of Coaching – Colorado Springs – Kirstin Gungler

Kirstin was born on the east coast and so was her love for soccer. She started playing at the age of 3 and continued into adulthood. Kirstin played soccer for a local competitive club until she left for college. She was a Varsity starter for all 4 years of high school soccer, and then played in college.

Kirstin's coaching career started after her daughter was born in 2004. She was asked to volunteer with the Colorado Springs Parks and Rec ladies' youth soccer program. After the first season of coaching, she was hooked and has coached all levels from volunteer to High School for both boys and girls. Kirstin's philosophy for success is "Hard Work Pays Off". Kirstin sees soccer as not just a sport, but a way of life. While with BVBIACO, she hopes to see every player in the Club build lasting friendships, make unforgettable memories, and above all, play amazing soccer.



Director of Coaching – Pueblo – Drew Irwin

Drew has been coaching youth soccer for over 6 years. He has personal experience on the dedication it takes to play at a high level from his youth soccer days in Dallas, Texas. Drew qualified for Texas state playoffs with his high school team 3 years in a row. With his club team, he attended high level tournaments like the Orlando Disney Cup, San Diego Surf Cup, and Texas State Cup.

Drew continued his soccer career to the collegiate level at The University of Texas at Tyler. He was recruited to attend this university, where he started as a freshman. In 2002 the team attended their divisions National Championship.

As a BVBIA Colorado coach, Drew led the 2010 Girls team to a Sunbelt tournament championship and an undefeated season in the CSA Platinum Advanced League.



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From the Director's Desk

"Let's get'em going..." A common phrase myself and fellow coaches have used many times, meaning let's get the players playing! Whether it's at the start of practice, or at a camp, tryout, or a game while we're waiting for the referee to hit the field so the whistle will blow and we can finally get started. This is truly our mandate as a club, is to set up an infrastructure that gets kids on the field and gets them playing. Coaching education courses will always tell you that the game is the best teacher. This is true, and it's our job as coaches and as a club to facilitate and manage the practices and games so that kids will play, learn and have fun.

As many of you are aware, we have undergone a significant transition here at the club. Our former leadership did amazing things with BVBIA Colorado the first few years, and myself and others have stepped in this summer to continue building a club that is expected to grow significantly the next several years. Our first goal this season, however, is simply to get the players going! We had a great showing at the Broomfield Tourney earlier this season. Practices and games are underway, we have our DOC's in place in both Pueblo and Colorado Springs, our new goalie coach is now onboard and goalie trainings will be starting soon! DOC training is expected to start soon as well. We will also have more information coming soon regarding our School of Excellence (SoE) and College Athlete Placement (CAP) programs for those applicable players and families.

Until then, we will continue to all work together as a club: coaches, administrators, players, and families, to accomplish the most important goal: getting the players playing! Let's get'em going!

Nathan Walker



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School of Excellence 2023



In April 2023, BVBIA Colorado held a School of Excellence ID camp, looking for the best talent in the Club to represent Colorado at the BVB International Academy Western Region ID event. From the 35 players who tried out, 19 were selected to join the BVBIA Colorado Elite Academy.

12 of these players travelled to Seattle, Washington, in June 2023 to attend the BVBIA Western Region ID event. While there, our players competed in personal and team skills against more than 70 BVBIA players from El Paso, Texas (BVBIA El Paso/Borderland), Tucson, Arizona (BVBIA Arizona), and Seattle, Washington (BVBIA Washington).

Players at the BVBIA Western Region event were either selected to join the BVBIA Western Region Tournament team (Regional Pool – RP) or were offered the opportunity to compete again at the BVBIA National Event Pool (NEP) in Dallas, TX, in December 2023.

Congratulations to all our amazing players, and good luck to those travelling to Dallas in December!

The BVBIA School of Excellence program was started in 2019 and is an integral part of the real and authentic professional player pathway that BVB International Academy provides for players from all of the BVBIA clubs across the US and Canada. Players that are selected for the National Event each year compete for a spot on BVBIA's National Pool team. Selected players have the opportunity to travel to Germany and train for a week at BVB Dortmund's Youth Academy, and get to experience the culture, heritage, and traditions of Borussia Dortmund and feel the heartbeat of the club as they traverse the city of Dortmund.

2023 BVBIACO Elite Academy Players

Matthew Mossman	2005	RP
Conner Sprecher	2005	RP
Asher Stockton	2007	RP
Michael Leibla-Gonzales	2008	
Amelia Miller	2008	
Reiss Mitchell	2008	RP
Sophia Sculli	2008	
Charlotte Williams	2008	
Cayenne Wynia	2008	
Noah Kolbo	2010	NEP
Daxton Harley	2011	RP
Johann Ronquillo	2011	NEP
Greyson Ryals	2011	
Roman Renaud	2012	NEP
Logan Smith	2012	RP
Mason Williams	2012	RP
Andrew Zimmer	2012	NEP
Eli Walter	2012	NEP
Karsten Pittman	2013	
Jack Say	2013	



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