

Croatia Cleveland Coach Leads Cleveland SC To NPSL National Semifinal



Croatia Cleveland Coach Lewis Dunne had another successful NPSL season, leading Cleveland SC to the National Semifinal before bowing out to eventual Champion Denton Diablos. Coach Dunne led the squad to an undefeated regular season. Cleveland SC earned a berth in the NPSL National Semifinal after defeating Minneapolis City SC 2-0, capturing the NPSL Midwest Regional Championship.

This is the second straight Midwest Championship. Cleveland SC was the Midwest Champion in the 2019 season, with another Croatia Cleveland Coach and current Mercyhurst Men's Head Coach Ryan Osborne led the club to a Midwest title.

Coach Dunne has been instrumental in the development of many players who also represented Croatia Cleveland in the inaugural OVPL League this season. Many of the same players had an opportunity to train with Cleveland SC with the hopes of earning roster spots for the club in the future.

On behalf of everyone at Croatia Cleveland, we want to wish Coach Dunne luck this upcoming season at Notre Dame College. All the best, Coach!!



Croatia Cleveland Standout Trials At Dinamo Zagreb

Croatia Cleveland standout Apolo Marinch (2010) recently trialed at the world renowned Dinamo Zagreb Youth Academy in Croatia. Apolo, pictured with Croatia Cleveland Technical Director Drago Dumbovic, spent two weeks at Dinamo Zagreb Academy showing off his skills in front of the Academy's staff and directors.



Dinamo Zagreb has a rich history producing world class players: Luka Modric, 2018 Ballon d'Or winner, UEFA Men's Player of the Year, FIFA Player of the Year and 2017-2019 FIFA World Best XI, is a product of Dinamo Zagreb. Croatian World Cup legends Davor Suker, Mario Mandzukic, Mateo Kovacic and Eduardo da Silva all are products of the famous Dinamo Zagreb Academy.

Apolo had the privilege to train with Dinamo's 2009 and 2010 teams. Apolo showed his technical skills were on par with the best youth players in Croatia. Apolo showed he could not only compete at that level but he could excel. Stay tuned for more news regarding Apolo's journey. From everyone at Croatia Cleveland, we wish you the best of luck in the future!

Croatia Cleveland Adds Pilekic to Coaching Staff

Croatia Juniors Directors would like to officially announce that newly appointed Assistant Coach at John Carroll University, Ante Pilekic, will be joining our coaching staff for the 2021-2022 season. Prior to joining the Blue Streaks, Coach Pilekic spent 4 seasons (2017-2021) as an Assistant at DII Notre Dame College, where he helped lead the program to two NCAA Tournament appearances. Pilekic also spent 3 years (2006-2008) serving as an Assistant Coach at Lakeland Community College in Kirtland. Along with Pilekic's college coaching experience, he also was the Head Coach at Lake Catholic High School (2009-2016), where he helped the school to two OHSAA DII State Final Four appearances in 2009 and 2015. Along with Coach Pilekic's college experience, his background in club soccer is where he made a name for himself. Coach Pilekic spent time working with clubs such as Challenger FC, AC Premier and Mentor Soccer Club. We look forward to Coach Pilekic working with our high school boys starting this winter. Welcome aboard!!



2021-2022 Supplemental Tryouts



Are you a U8 (2013) to U14 (2008) boy or girl travel league or high school player who forgot about tryouts? Didn't get the right offer from another club? Are you still looking for a club to call home?

Email: mrgic@croatiajuniors.com for further information concerning a try-out.



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