

Hellenic Looking for Players for 2009 Season

Contributed by Maryann Bishop - Owner
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The Tampa Bay Hellenic is proud to play a part in the development and advancement of women soccer players as they strive to play at the next level, whether that be college or professional, and we are looking for a few elite players for the 2009 season.

The W-League has played a part in the development of so many players, helping to prepare them as they enter collegiate soccer, making them a better collegiate player, or preparing them to try their hand at the competitive world of the professional soccer player. In 2008, seven Hellenic players were invited to the W-League combine, and from there, three were invited to the Women's Professional League (www.womensprosoccer.com) combine. Two of those players attended the WPS pre-season, one by draft and one by invitation, and we are proud to say that Stacy Bishop, a 2008 Hellenic player now holds a full roster position for the Boston Breakers WPS team. Stacy played W-League from her freshman year of college, and there is no doubt that these playing experiences helped prepare her for her professional career.

We helped our current NCAA players improve their game, and we feel that every one of them played at a higher level when they returned to their university. Mallori Loftin-Malachi won the W-League 'Keeper of the Year' award, and continued her stellar play for her USF team, and earned an invitation to the U-23 National Camp. Gabi Rivera, a University of Auburn player and a 2008 Hellenic player, more than doubled her points in collegiate play from 2007 to 2008, and we like to think that the Hellenic's training and the competition that we face played a major part in that increase. We are thrilled to announce that we expect both these players to be joining us again for the 2009 season.

One of our high school players from the 2008 season, Jo Dragotta, has been invited to play and has committed to the university of her choice, the University of Florida. Jo also is expected to play with the Hellenic again this year as she prepares to advance her game from the high school/club level to the top Division 1 collegiate level.

If you are an elite soccer player that is looking to advance your play, then the Hellenic is looking for you. We are a developmental club that accepts players from high school on up. Our first tryout of this year will be a scrimmage versus the University of South Florida on the evening of April 15, 2009. Players eligible for this tryout are high school, NCAA Division 2 (certain restrictions apply regarding your Spring schedule), NAIA, and post-collegiate players. NCAA Division 1 players are not eligible to participate in this scrimmage, but we are definitely interested in hearing from you. If you wish to play/tryout in this scrimmage, please contact our coach, George Fotopoulos, either through this website or by calling him at 813-235-5645. You must have approval prior to playing, this is an invitation only tryout.

The road to the new Women's Professional Soccer league runs right through the W-League and the Tampa Bay Hellenic is the first stop!