

DC Stoddert Soccer League

(Interview with Len Oliver, director of coaching)

- **Location:** Washington, D.C.
- **History:** Formed in 1977 by neighbors near the Stoddert Recreation Center; travel program initiated in 1985.
- **Championships:** Virginia state cup winners: U-15 DC United (2001); U-11 DC Strikers (1996).
- **Most famous players:** Judah Cooks, Micah Cooks, Erwin Diaz.

• **Facilities:** Local recreation-center fields, high school and college fields.

• **Club philosophy:** "Have fun, learn skills, everyone plays, stay in the game, and revel in our soccer culture."

• **Club's biggest strengths:** "Our location in the nation's capital; the vast pool and diversity of our players (both American and foreign-born); the strength and professional acumen of our volunteers; our strong cadre of qualified coaches."

• **Biggest challenges:** Fields; inspiring inner-city youngsters to play; media recognition.

• **Club's most recent controversies:** Balancing open play with travel play; training



DC STODDERT



Coach Scott Miller and the DC Stoddert U-14 Devils travel team.

- **Number of players:** 5,300.
- **Number of teams:** 354 open division; 30 travel teams (11 girls, 19 coed).
- **Number of coaches:** 450 open coaches, 16 developmental coaches, 30 travel coaches.
- **Cost to play:** Open — \$65 per season; travel — \$800-\$1,000 per year.
- **Coaching salaries:** Open — \$50 per hour; travel and developmental: \$5,000-\$9,000 per year.
- **Innovations:** "DC Scores" (inner-city writing-soccer program); participation in the new Virginia-DC Soccer Hall of Fame.

and retention of referees; going to smaller-sided games through U-12.

• **Biggest rivals:** Montgomery Soccer Inc.; Bethesda Soccer travel teams.

• **Sponsors:** Diadora, D.C. United (MLS), Washington Freedom (WUSA).

• **Fund raising:** Parent contributions for fields and scholarships for inner-city players.

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