



Manitou FC Expands to Eagan

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Manitou FC Soccer Club is excited to announce its expansion into the Eagan area, bringing bigger opportunities to people looking for a more exciting, diverse brand of futbol in the Twin Cities' south metro.

The program welcomes former Minnesota Gopher soccer player and current Eagan High School varsity soccer coach, Shari Eckstrom, as Eagan's Technical Director for the newest chapter of Manitou FC. "I am confident Manitou FC is the right program to bring to the South Metro based on the culture, sustainability, and integrity the board of directors and leadership has shown" says Eckstrom. "I believe in the player development, board support, and opportunities Manitou FC-Eagan will provide the players and athletes."

When asked about this expansion and new partnership, Edi Buro—Sporting Director for Manitou FC since 2015—said, "We're excited to work with Coach Eckstrom and her coaching staff to further the opportunities for boys and girls to enjoy this great game. Shari will provide an environment that is fun, educational, and inspiring. Her enthusiasm, playing experience, and coaching knowledge will surely draw kids and families across the south metro to Manitou FC."

Coach Eckstrom will be working closely with Buro to implement the unique coaching methodology and programming associated with the Manitou FC brand – with an emphasis on skill development and a possession-style brand of soccer.

Steve Gaustad, MFC's president, echoed excitement about these changes for the south metro. "We're excited to see our Manitou FC 'kids first' brand of soccer expanding into other communities. Our hope is to tear down cultural boundaries and create a safe environment for kids to learn the game of soccer and develop a love for the game that can last a lifetime."

Manitou FC-Eagan will begin in August of 2021 and will compete in the Twin Cities Soccer League and Minnesota Youth Soccer Association. Being affiliated with the top two leagues in Minnesota allows the league to place all teams and players at the appropriate levels of play.

Manitou FC prides itself on having a place for any player. It's focused on developing players at all levels of play and providing a development path for teams to achieve success and advance to the next level. While stressing fun and skill development, the club also promotes a player-centered environment which has produced nearly 50 Division I, Division II, and Division III, men's and women's players in the past five years. Sporting Director Buro believes that the success of Manitou FC is measured by the success of the kids it serves.

For information about how to sign up for Manitou FC-Eagan, please contact SportingDirector@manitoufc.org, or go to www.manitoufc.com for registration information.