



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE FIFTH ANNUAL GAHANNA FALL OPEN SOCCER TOURNAMENT KICKS OFF AUGUST 22

GAHANNA, Ohio – Young soccer players will fill the field at Headley Park, 1031 Challis Springs Dr., beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, August 22, when the fifth annual Gahanna Fall Open (GFO) tournament kicks off. Team registration will be on Friday evening, and on Saturday, teams will compete from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The tournament is run by the Gahanna Soccer Association (GSA), an all-volunteer organization. Tournament Director Michael Stavreiff said, “This is a great pre-Labor Day opportunity for young players to get primed for the upcoming season. We’re anticipating between 80 and 100 teams, we should have more than 3,000 visitors between players, coaches, parents and supporters.”

Boys and Girls teams in the under 9 to under 15 age groups will have a chance to compete and build bonds for the upcoming fall soccer season. The tournament is designed to provide appropriate competitive level of play by grouping teams into multiple divisions in most age groups.

The Gahanna Convention & Visitors Bureau (GCVB) assists the event in a variety of ways, including the welcome bags that are given to attendees. “We’re delighted to have this tournament in Gahanna,” said Karen Eylon, director of GCVB. “We want the 1300-plus welcome bags that we’ve prepared to communicate the warmth and hospitality that is very representative of our community. The Gahanna Fall Open introduces families from around Ohio, Kentucky and Pennsylvania to our city, and these bags help to drive the economic impact of this event by providing information about our businesses and discount opportunities.”

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THE FIFTH ANNUAL GAHANNA FALL OPEN SOCCER TOURNAMENT –Page 2

The GSA said that last year's event attracted approximately 3,800 attendees, resulting in an economic impact in excess of \$954,000. In addition to the positive economic impact and raising funds for the GSA, the event is also a fundraiser for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. In 2008, the tournament presented them with a check for \$3,500, GSA hope to continue and increase its support into the future.

The GFO is a U.S. Youth Soccer and Ohio South Youth Soccer Association sanctioned tournament. For tournament questions, please contact Mike Stavreff, 614-537-8484 or MSTAVREFF@COLUMBUS.RR.COM.

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