



Youth Sports

TOPS All Star Game a success

Youth with disabilities featured in soccer game

By **Tiffany Smith**
YourNews contributor

STUART – The Treasure Coast Soccer League (TCSL) partnered with the YMCA of the Treasure Coast to host the first ever TOPSselect All-Star soccer game on Aug. 28 at the YMCA on Monterey Road.

Young athletes, numbering 18, with disabilities competed in the game before an enthusiastic crowd.

Players were selected from TOPS programs coordinated by the Hobe Sound Soccer Club, Palm City-based Martin United Soccer Club, and Port St Lucie Soccer Club.

TOPSoccer is a community based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities, organized by youth soccer association volunteers.

The program is designed to bring the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to any boy or girl who has a mental or physical disability.



From left, Clayton Pelkey, Andrew Reilsfeld, Andrew Jacobs

In Martin and St. Lucie Counties, TOPS reaches close to 200 athletes each year.

“The TCSL is extremely proud to have initiated

this ground breaking activity for youth with disabilities in our area,” said TCSL president Richard Creber. “We believe that it is important for all kids

to have the opportunity to experience the joy of sport, learn teamwork, make friends, exercise, and have fun while doing it.”



From left, Roman Demydenko, William Potts, Nick Drake

The TCSL, the YMCA and the clubs that operate TOPS programs are all working together to provide the opportunity for TOPSoccer throughout the school year for local athletes.

The YMCA and TCSL are finalizing plans for a TOPS program scheduled to start in late October. Martin United Soccer of Palm City will host a TOPS program set to run

from January 15 to February 26 at Justin Wilson Park, and Hobe Sound will operate a spring program.

There are also plans for more TOPSselect All-Star games to happen before each new TOPS session.

For more information on TOPSoccer visit the TCSL website at www.tcyouthsoccer.com or email tops@tcyouthsoccer.com.