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Houston, TX, January 6, 2012. December 2011 again saw AHFC send boys and girls teams to one of the most prestigious events in the country, the Disney Soccer Showcase.

December 26-30 saw the AHFC 95B and AHFC 96B both compete well through their group games. AHFC 95B had a record of W2 - L1 and would just miss out on the Showcase Final. They would advance to the 3rd/4th place playoff game and seal that game with an amazing comeback from 1-3 down to finish in 3rd position in the bracket with a 4-3 win. From the performances in Orlando the AHFC 95B moved up in the National rankings 15 places up to 35th. AHFC 96B had a record of W2 - L1 and would also just miss out on the showcase final. They would advance to the 3rd/4th place playoff game and unfortunately fall short of 3rd place, finishing in 4th position after a 1-4 defeat. Over 50 College Soccer Coaches spent time watching the boys teams play over the course of the week in Orlando providing exceptional exposure to future college soccer opportunities for our boys.

Both Boys teams will head back to Florida in February to complete their USYS National League seasons with the AHFC 95B hoping to cement 1st place in their remaining three games. Congratulations to all the players and AHFC staff who work with these teams.

December 30 - January 3rd saw the Girls teams arrive to participate in the Girls Disney Showcase games. This also doubled up as National League games for the AHFC 96G and AHFC 97G following on from their games in Atlanta in November. AHFC96G had a positive weekend with 1W - 1D - 1L advancing to the 3rd/4th play off game in the top Showcase bracket. They had to show excellent resolve to overcome a last minute equalizer by their opponents which sent the game to PK's. Taylor Aycock saved the first PK and watched the third kick smash against the bar and Sarah Gifford stepped up to take the all important kick and secure 3rd position for the group and take the record to W2 - D1 - L1. Over 80 College Coaches attended the AHFC 96G games over the week providing exceptional exposure for the girls on the team.

AHFC 97G also had a positive weekend with 1W - 2D and not conceding a goal through group play to advance to the Championship game in the top showcase bracket. Twice Christiana Sullivan scored to bring the game level only for the game to go to PK's and see reigning Region I Champions - Match Fit Colchester prevail and take the Championship. Even though the majority of these girls are only Freshmen there were 40+ college coaches watching their games over the course of the week again for some exceptional exposure for these talented young ladies.

Outside of National League our AHFC 95G drew 0-0 in their final game after just losing their opening two matches but, played well in front of numerous college coaches. Our AHFC 96G Blue won their first two games but lost their third just missing out on their bracket final. Advancing to the 3rd/4th Play off game and carrying a number of injuries the girls fought hard to a 1-1 score at the end of normal time but unfortunately lost in PK's to take 4th spot.

So overall AHFC showed our ability to compete with some of the best teams in the country in one of the most challenging events in the soccer calendar.

"We are all very proud of our players and teams performances in Orlando this past few weeks. It's a difficult time of year to keep your rhythm as a team but all of our groups showed they can compete with the best teams in the country" Commented Nick Hallam - AHFC Technical Director. "To have 5 of our teams advance into the 4th day of play at an event of this caliber is outstanding and shows the strength in depth we have at the club across the boys

and girls programs"

Disney Soccer Showcase Series has grown from one 80-team tournament to a series of three top level national events with more than 600 teams in age groups from U11-U18. If your team has something to prove, then Disney's Soccer Showcase Series has an event for you. Make it a goal to take your team to the next level. Then watch them rise to the challenge at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex - 'Welcome to The Proving Ground.'

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ABOUT AHFC

AHFC is a non-profit organization leading the way in South Texas youth soccer by inspiring and developing young men and women through world class coaching and innovative techniques; as well as instilling within our athlete the proper framework, self-esteem, confidence, and sportsmanship. With Central and West campuses, AHFC has approximately 2,000 young men and women players with teams in the National League, Region III Premier League, State Classic League, Division 1, Super 2, Division 2, and Developmental programs. AHFC is affiliated with the area's leading recreational soccer programs: Junior Hurricanes Soccer League and Katy Youth Soccer Club.

Website: <http://www.albionhurricanes.org>
