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HELLO SOCCER FANS,

Eugene Metro Fútbol Club's dream of building a women's premier soccer team has become reality. The Azul's inaugural season is a pivotal moment in the club's history and another critical step to putting Eugene on the map as a home for top soccer players. We have recruited premier-level players from within Eugene Metro FC and other Oregon clubs as well as from colleges in Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Colorado, California and Montana.

With last year's exciting women's World Cup in Germany and the upcoming Olympic Games in London, women's soccer reaches millions around the world. The level of the women's game continues to advance, and local and regional girls and women's teams are brimming with athletes who need an outlet to play high-level soccer beyond college. The EMFC Azul team taps local talent to be part of the world's largest national league of top female soccer players — the Women's Premier Soccer League.

The 2012 Azul roster has 14 high school-age players, seven current college players and five post-college players, all ranging in age from 17-27. Our team includes current UO players and several young women who coach soccer in our community, including Jenny Barton (Sheldon), Stacy Ermini (Willamette/EMFC) and Lindsay Parlee (UO/EMFC). The depth of experience is impressive, and the Azul's potential to be competitive within the WPSL is promising.

My goal is that the Azul team will inspire and provide role models for young girls playing soccer in our community. These Azul players will return in the fall to their high schools and colleges with more experience and skill, and one day some may make it to the professional ranks or join the women's national team. Many current U.S. women's national team players have played and have been discovered in the Women's Premier Soccer League.

Eugene Metro FC Azul, together with Seattle-based Issaquah FC and Emerald City FC, joins with the Portland Rain, Oregon Rush and the Spokane Shine to establish a competitive Northwest division. The Pacific Northwest is buzzing with soccer excitement, with the Portland Timbers, the Seattle Sounders and the Vancouver Whitecaps all playing in the men's Major Soccer League. All those clubs have women's teams, and over the next few years the infrastructure for top female players will continue to improve and provide opportunities. Eugene Metro FC plans to be part of this development so that top female players can compete from May to July, giving Eugene soccer fans an opportunity to watch top-level women's soccer.

I am very grateful for the strong support for this team from our sponsors, adidas, Market of Choice and *Eugene Weekly*, all of whom share our commitment to broadening opportunities for girls and women athletes in our community. Enjoy the game.

- Jürgen Ruckaberle,  
Eugene Metro FC Azul  
Head Coach



EUGENE  
**METRO**  
Fútbol Club



TWO RIVERS. TWO PEAKS.  
ONE CLUB.

WPSL AZUL TEAM

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(AGES 10-18)

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