



CEE-ing the stars of the future

Central & Eastern European Under-19 Top Teams!

Prague 24-31 July 2013



PRESS RELEASE

"GENERALI CEE CUP 2013" – RESULTS OF THE GRAND FINAL: GYOR ETO FC 2 : SK SLAVIA PRAHA 1

Prague, 1st August, 2013 After a week of intense competition, the **GENERALI CEE Cup 2013**, the international football tournament for top youth teams (under 19) from Central & Eastern Europe (CEE), came to a fitting close last night, Wednesday, 31st July, 2013, with a real epic of a Grand Final between SK Slavia Praha from the Czech Republic and Gyori ETO FC from Hungary, with Gyor winning 2:1 after scoring the winning goal in the last minute of injury time.

The event, which was held in the Viktoria Zizkov stadium, opened with a live dance performance by the African and Indian inspired OM dance troupe, who moved to the sounds of the official tournament anthem, "We Are Strong Together". Shortly after, the players from both teams assembled on the pitch, each accompanied by a child from UNICEF, to listen to live performances of the Czech and Hungarian national anthems. FIFA Fair Play speeches were read aloud by the team captains in both Czech and English, official photos were taken of the teams and referees, and the game was set to begin.

The match itself started at 18:30, with strong play from Slavia right from the very beginning, including a first shot on goal at just three minutes into the game. The action kept spectators on their toes right up until half time, when, at 45 minutes in, Slavia's Lukáš Maršálek managed to score and put Slavia 1:0 ahead.

Gyor came back in the second half with new vigor, with its forwards, in particular, playing an aggressive game. The Hungarian team's pressure led to several chances and peaked when one of its players was fouled and Bence Szabó used this chance to even up the scores with a penalty in the 87th minute. When three minutes of injury time was announced, everyone was already looking forward to extra time but then, just a few seconds before the final whistle, Gyor's Zsolt Kalmár scored again and ruined Slavia's chances for a victory in what was their first ever participation in the tournament.

Talking about the final, Roberto De Blasio, the Chairman of the Organising Committee said:

"This has been an incredible week, with some spectacular football, unexpected results and unbelievable weather conditions; all in all a tournament that we will all remember for a very long time! I have no doubt that some of the players that we have seen over the past few days are future stars, and I am very proud that we were able to bring such talented players together for the tournament, and put on such a great show!"



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As is tradition, the Grand Final was followed by an award ceremony that included awards for the Best Goalkeeper, Best Scorer and Best Player. The Best Goalkeeper award was given to Lukáš Soukup from SK Slavia Praha, and the presentation was made by David Čermák, a reporter from the main media partner of the tournament, Mlada fronta Dnes. This prize was given in memory of Franco Mancini, the former Italian goalkeeper, who died suddenly in March, 2012, aged just 42 years.

The Best Scorer was Bence Szabó from Gyori ETO FC, who was presented with his award by the Prague 3 Mayor, Vladislava Hujová. The Best Player award went to Jiří Sodomá of SK Slavia Praha, and was presented by Ing. Pavel Mencl, MBA, the Chief Sales Officer of the tournament's title sponsor, GENERALI.

Silver medals for the runners-up were given by Ms. Vladislava Hujová of Prague 3, and the gold medalists were awarded by Mr. Mencl of GENERALI.

The week long tournament opened on the afternoon of Wednesday, 24th July, with the first match being between Bohemians 1905 and Mexico's Cruz Azul. Before the event, many observers had suggested that Cruz Azul, a top Mexican team, would walk away with the tournament. Despite looking very strong during the first half hour, they started to fade in the extreme heat, and Bohemians 1905 soon started to dominate, and won the match 3:1. This match set the tone for the rest of the week, with the local teams putting up some intense competition against the visitors, and handling the weather conditions a lot better than their rivals.

Semi-finals took place on 29th July between Vasas Kubala Akademia and Gyori ETO FC, and Sparta Praha and Slavia Praha. Vasas and Sparta came out in 3rd and 4th place, having lost by 2 points and 1 point respectively.

This was the third year of the CEE Cup, and the first year that the GENERALI CZE Foundation has been involved as the title partner. Talking about the sponsorship, Jiri Civka, Board Member of the GENERALI CZE Foundation and Press Spokesperson of GENERALI CZE said:

*"We are delighted to have been able to be involved with this year's **GENERALI CEE Cup**; right from the start, we have enjoyed a great working relationship with the organizing team, and we had a fantastic time watching the amazing talents of these great young athletes. This tournament truly represents the very best of sport, and we all look forward to seeing much more from these young players in the future."*

The **GENERALI CEE Cup** focuses on "Respect", "Fair Play" and "Competitiveness", all of which are very important for today's youth players. Also of importance is the visibility that this tournament brings to the Czech Republic and the City of Prague, not only due to the visiting teams and their supporters, but also due to its live broadcasting to more than 70 countries by Eurosport International.

The organizers will now have a couple of quieter months before they start preparations for next year's event.

For more information, please visit www.ceecup.eu.



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Notes for Editors:

The GENERALI CEE Cup is an international tournament for top Central & Eastern European (CEE) youth football club teams, that had its first edition in 2011. Since then the tournament goes from strength to strength and now attracts some of the leading youth teams in Central & Eastern Europe as well as elsewhere. The tournament focuses on „Respect“, „Fair Play“, and „Competitiveness“. The GENERALI CEE Cup is the perfect opportunity for tournament visitors, managers and other interested spectators to see the football stars of the future.

www.ceecup.eu