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Girls soccer team raising money for trip to Holland - After strong performance in Florida, the team of teen-agers wants to play in Europe.

Miami Herald, The (FL) - Sunday, April 1, 2012

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Sheridan Plummer has been playing soccer since she could walk, but now, at age 15, she and her team have the chance to attend a soccer camp in the Netherlands in June 2012 thanks to her coach, Donald ChinLoy.

ChinLoy, coach of a Coral Gables girls' soccer team called Storm, has been taking teams to Europe for the past five years and believes this team has had the success to earn the trip. The team, which is affiliated with the Coral Gables Youth Center, is searching for sponsors and donors to help pay the cost.

"I want the girls to be exposed to a different culture," ChinLoy said. "I want them to see how serious European players are about their play, the intensity they play with and the focus they have at practice."

The team is composed mostly of girls ages 16 and under who have been playing together for at least five years. It competes in the Florida State League, a premier girls soccer league in Florida.

"I'm just really excited to see how they play over there. We will be playing girls our age to become more exposed," Plummer said.

Among their many titles is the 2008-2009 Florida United Girls Soccer Association Division 1 Champions, and ChinLoy believes training with a top Dutch coach, and playing against Dutch, German and Belgian players will only make them better and more passionate.

Dani Frese, 15, has been playing soccer for seven years and has been on the team for five. She credits her team's success and her love for the game to the close-knit atmosphere of the team.

"I like how close I am with my team, we're best friends and more like a family," Frese said. "Coming to practice and playing really clears my mind."

The team travels frequently in Florida, with their next State Cup tournament residing in Auburndale, but they have only been out of state one time, for the Atlanta Cup in Georgia. This will be their first time crossing international borders.

The girls are planning fundraisers such as a reverse raffle, car washes and a garage sale. More information about the fundraisers and ways to donate can be found at www.cgstorm.org or contact Tim Plummer, team director, at 305-804-9901.

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Personal Name(s): Sheridan Plummer; Donald ChinLoy; Dani Frese; Tim Plummer

Record Number:

201204010000KNRIDDERFLMIAMIH_e25ee45426da3541515018e8d0451121

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