

## U9 UMSC STRIKERS WIN CAN-AM CUP



The Strikers made the 20 minute drive north with only one thing on their mind, and that was bringing the Cup home. Coach Angelo and Ken used the week off of their regular season schedule to prepare the boys for their 3<sup>rd</sup> tournament of the season. The Strikers have been knocking on victory's door their last two tournaments, but could not break through.

Early Friday afternoon they announced their presence with an impressive 9-0 victory over the York-United Wizards. The Strikers took control of the game and scored early and often. The striking tandem of Mustafa and Billy got the Strikers on the board and gave the boys the confidence they needed.

In their second game, which turned out to be a preview of the finals the Strikers went to battle against the Aurora Gold. The game went back and forth with each team scoring twice. The Strikers then went ahead by two goals and held on to a 4-3 victory courtesy of Steve's blast from just outside the box. This was a very hard fought game with great defensive work by Alexander and Nicholas.

The final round robin game early Saturday morning was against the Markham Lightning, with the Strikers starting off slowly. The score was 1-0 at the half, but a quick pep talk

from the coaches got the team back on track and the final score was 8-0. Austin and Marco led the strikers with some great passing and finishing.

The team was now where they expected to be in the semi finals. The only thing standing in their way to the finals was a tough London City Spurs team. The Spurs came out of the gate strong and scored a beautiful volley in the first half to take the lead. The Strikers kept their composure and then seemed to get their legs back and pushed forward to score 5 unanswered goals for the victory. This game in the extreme heat set the stage for a wonderful final.

The final game was a classic right from the start as both teams pressed forward with tenacity. Aurora took the lead midway in the first half with a pretty goal from a corner kick. The Strikers came out in the second half on a mission and had some excellent chances. With about 8 minutes to play Sweeper Joseph intercepted a pass beat two players and then hammered a shot into the corner for the tying goal. All of the Striker and Stinger fans were on the edge of their seats as the game went into Penalty Shots. Farhad took the first penalty and scored off of the keepers hands. Paul took the second shot and blasted it into the top of the net. This was all that was necessary as the Striker keeper James was a monster in net stopping 3 of the 4 Stinger shooters.

On behalf of all of the coaches, parents and fans we would like to congratulate the boys on a great team effort. The way they battled in the scorching heat was inspirational to all in attendance. Give yourselves a hand boy's, you deserve it.

**GO STRIKERS!!!**