



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

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2010 WPS Championship Shines Spotlight on Cal South Alumni

- Cal South Alumnus **Kandace Wilson** Notches Goal & Assist
- Game Rosters Featured **7 Former Cal South Players**

THE 2010 WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH not only closed out the young league's second season in high-scoring fashion, but also proved to be a prime showcase for the quality and excellence of players coming out of the Cal South system.

Seven alumni of Cal South's ODP teams and youth soccer clubs were featured on game-time rosters for the Sunday, September 26 WPS championship game between the Philadelphia Independence and FC Gold Pride at Pioneer Stadium in Hayward, California.

Cal South alums **Kandace Wilson, Shannon Boxx, Rachel Buehler,** and **Ali Riley** (named Rookie of the Year two weeks earlier – see story below) took the field for

FC Gold Pride, while **Kiki Bosio** came in at the 75th minute as a substitute (only **Carrie Dew** did not make it into the game). **Amy Rodriguez**, the second-leading goal scorer in the WPS this season, was the sole Cal South alumnus playing on the Philadelphia Independence.

While Marta, the acclaimed Brazilian scorer, ran up the stats with two assists and a goal and Christine Sinclair notched a pair of goals as well, Wilson, who played club soccer in Cal South with the Santa Anita Strikers, proved their equal. Wilson sank a shot into the back of the net in the 29th minute on a feed from Marta, and then Wilson returned the favor a minute into stoppage time with a cross that Marta put away firmly with her left, giving the Gold Pride a solid 4-0 shutout over the Independence.

2 Cal South Alumni Honored with Year-End WPS Trophies

WITH THE CLOSE OF THE 2010 WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL SOCCER REGULAR SEASON was the announcement of its annual Year-End Awards on September 16 in Philadelphia, and among the league's very deserving honorees were two former Cal South players.

Left defender **Ali Riley**, of eventual WPS Champion FC Gold Pride (see previous story), was named as the inaugural WPS Rookie of the Year for 2010. The league leader in team defense with just 19 goals allowed, FC Gold Pride's success was greatly attributable to Riley's strong defensive play, and she also tallied three assists during the campaign. Riley's Cal South club career consisted of six years with the Westside Breakers and three with Real So Cal, before starring on the New Zealand National Team, with whom she played in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games.

Chicago Red Stars defender **Natalie Spilger** won the Sportswoman of the Year Award, which recognizes players

who demonstrate exemplary community involvement. Spilger was given the award for the creation of her grassroots organization, GreenLaces, which has brought awareness to global environmental issues and energy conservation by using athletes as environmental leaders in their countries and communities. Spilger raced across the pitches of Southern California for a decade as a member of the San Diego Hotspurs, also playing in Cal South ODP before moving on to college soccer success at Stanford and then to the WPS.



Photo: Ali Riley



Photo: Natalie Spilger