



SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

# SDA MAGAZINE

**2009 GA  
NATIONAL  
CHAMPS!**

**Special  
Issue**

**COACH  
INTERVIEWS:**

**BROOKE  
BARBUTO**

**COMPLETE  
COVERAGE!**

**TOMMY  
TANNER**







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# THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD

The 2009 Girls Academy team's run to the National Championship will be remembered forever in the SDA family. This wasn't just a season—it was a journey that showed what happens when a group of players and coaches buy in completely, believe in each other, and refuse to quit.

It didn't start perfectly. The very first game of the year ended in a loss. Instead, our SDA players turned it into fuel. From that point on, the group created a culture of accountability and toughness. As Coach Brooke put it, "They want to be the best. They want to win. Even in practice, they fight." That spirit carried through every training session, every showcase, and every league game. They focused on all aspects of the game. Defense became a huge part of their success and the team was firing on all cylinders.

The playoffs were where this team's character really showed. By the time they reached the final, the team's fitness, pressing style, and sheer willpower overwhelmed the opponent. Coach Tommy said it best: "The referee asked me at halftime of the final if I wanted a water break, and I said no... because they're tired and we're not." Within minutes, SDA was up 2-0, and the game was ours.

What made this group special is that everyone contributed. Goals came from all over the roster, the defense was a wall, and the keeper made game-changing saves. There was no single hero—just a team of players who trusted each other and believed in the work they had put in.

This championship is more than a trophy. It's proof of what our SDA players and coaches stand for: hard work, resilience, and family. To win a national title against the best in the country is something that can never be taken away. As Tommy said, "To think that they could win a national championship—it's still pretty amazing." And for all of us at SDA, it's a moment we'll never forget.



# BROOKE BARBUTO

## SDA 2009 GA HEAD COACH

When the 2009 Girls Academy team from SDA lifted the National Championship trophy, Assistant Coach Brooke Barbuto wasn't just celebrating a title. She was celebrating a journey defined by resilience, growth, and the relentless spirit of her players.

Barbuto remembers the final whistle not as relief, but as validation. "I was just extremely proud of the girls," she said. "All the hard work, dedication, grit they had all year—and their willingness to compete in battle. It's something they'll remember for the rest of their lives."

That willingness to fight became the team's calling card. Even in training, Barbuto noted, competitiveness was always at the surface. The players demanded the best of one another, whether in scrimmages or on the national stage. "They want to be the best. They want to win," she said. "They fight in practice, they fight in games. That's just who they are."

The season's story arc was shaped by an early setback. A first-game loss could have derailed the campaign, but instead it sharpened focus. Players embraced criticism and used it to improve. Rather than shrink under pressure, they grew. The more they won, the more they believed. By the end, Barbuto explained, the team had built a winning culture—one that wasn't imposed by coaches, but owned by the players themselves.

The national semifinal became the ultimate test. Down a player for more than an hour, conceding two penalties, and still trailing with seconds to go,





# BROOKE BARBUTO

## SDA 2009 GA HEAD COACH

SDA somehow forced an equalizer and advanced on penalties. It was the kind of moment that reveals character. Weeks of practicing spot kicks paid off. Composure under pressure became the difference between elimination and immortality.

But for Barbuto, the magic of this group went beyond tactics. It was the bond they shared and the way they lifted each other up. “They know when they make mistakes,” she said. “What they need is encouragement.” She modeled that philosophy herself, choosing to correct with positivity rather than punishment. The players, in turn, adopted that same attitude toward each other, building a culture of support.

As a female coach with experience at every level—high school, college, and professional—Barbuto also became a role model. Several players had trained with her privately for years, and she said the trust they placed in her made the season especially rewarding. “They could ask me questions and relate to me a little bit more. I’ve been in their shoes.”

Barbuto says she hopes her players carry into life the same mindset that carried them through the season: face challenges head-on, never quit, and take control of your own path. “If something’s not going your way, put more into it,” she said. “You have control of your destination.”

Barbuto expressed gratitude. Coaching them was pure joy. “I wanted to go to practice. I wanted to see them. We didn’t want the season to end.” For her, the championship was not just about the final victory, but about the journey with a team that believed, fought, and ultimately proved themselves the best in the country.





# TOMMY TANNER

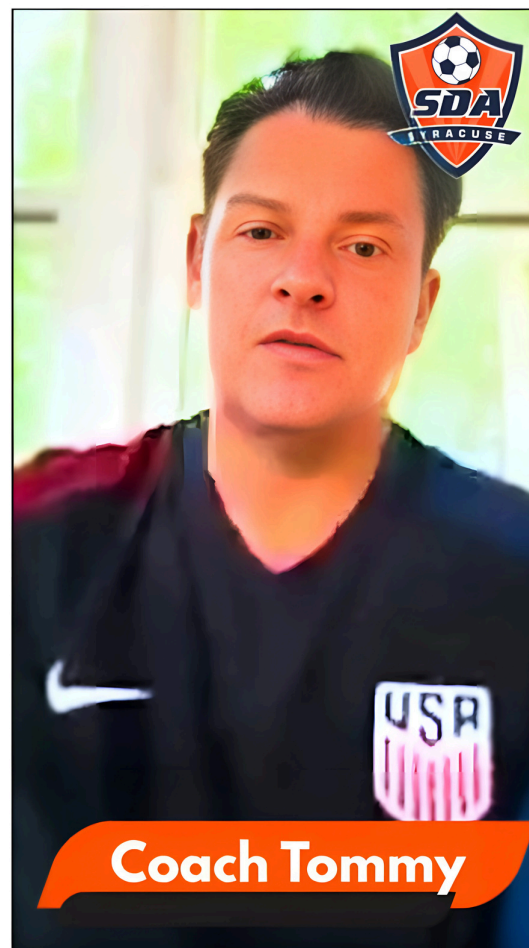
## SDA 2009 GA HEAD COACH

For Tommy Tanner, SDA's 2009 Girls Academy National Championship was not just the result of a single season, but the culmination of years of work, planning, and persistence. The longtime coach has been involved with the age group since U13, and his perspective reveals just how much went into molding a group of players from across Central New York into a team capable of conquering the country.

The foundation of the championship side was laid early. Over the years, players joined from Rochester, Watertown, Binghamton, Utica, and Syracuse. The roster became a blend of talent drawn from more than 100 miles in every direction. It was, Tanner admitted, the only way to truly compete at the GA's highest level. "In order to win at the top level in the GA, it'd be very difficult just for a team of Syracuse kids," he explained. By combining players from multiple areas, SDA created a roster deep and versatile enough to beat anyone.

Chemistry, Tanner noted, didn't come overnight, but the players grew together quickly. Having worked with the group for multiple seasons—alongside coaches like Brooke Barbutto and Brian McGrane—he saw firsthand the development of a collective identity. SDA always had the firepower to score goals, but this season the defense reached a new level. That balance made all the difference, especially in the crucible of national competition.

The team's identity, Tanner said, came from their relentless style of play. They pressed, pressed, and pressed some more. Even when fatigue set in, they found another gear. "The referee asked me at halftime of the final if I wanted a water break, and I said no," Tanner recalled. "The girls were looking at me like, why? And I said, because they're tired and we're not."





# TOMMY TANNER

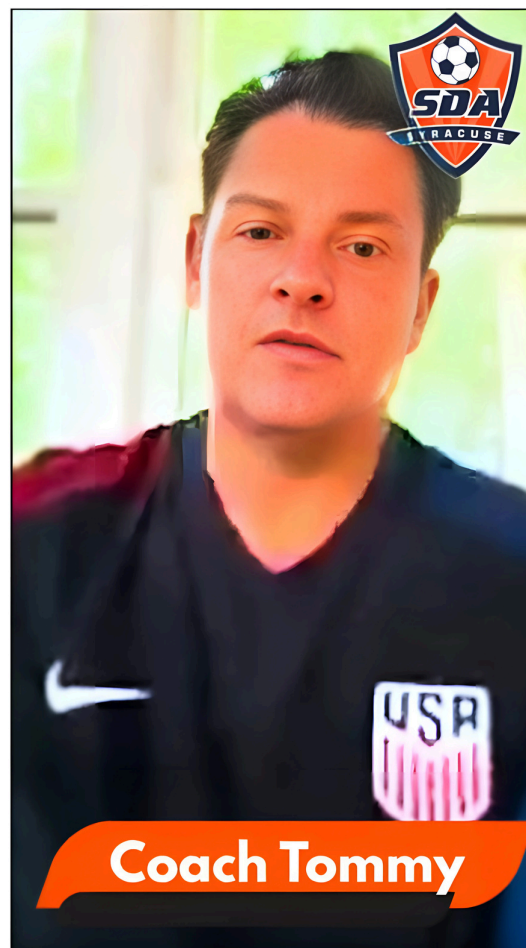
## SDA 2009 GA HEAD COACH

Within the opening 15 minutes of the championship match, SDA had scored twice and taken the opponent's will away.

It wasn't just fitness or tactics—it was also mentality. Drawing from his own experience in 13 professional championships, Tanner preached to the players that they had to give more than they thought possible. "You're gonna think you can't go anymore," he told them. "And you have to go more." By the end of the final, players were so exhausted they could barely celebrate. But that, Tanner said, was the mark of true effort: leaving absolutely everything on the field.

What stood out to Tanner about this group was its depth. Across the finals weekend, seven different players scored. There was no reliance on a single star. Whether it was a free kick from Liz, clutch goals from Ashlyn and Abby, or Lex stepping up with a game-changing performance, the contributions came from everywhere. That collective strength turned potential into a championship reality.

The semifinal illustrated just how much fight this team had. Down 2-1 in double overtime, playing with 10 players for over an hour, they still found a way—earning a penalty kick in the final minute, equalizing, and eventually winning in a shootout. The final demanded more big plays, including brilliant saves from goalkeeper Tiffany, who had just returned from a break and rose to the occasion with championship-defining stops. "If they had made it 2-1, things could have gotten scary," Tanner admitted. But Tiffany and the defense held firm, sealing the 2-0 victory.



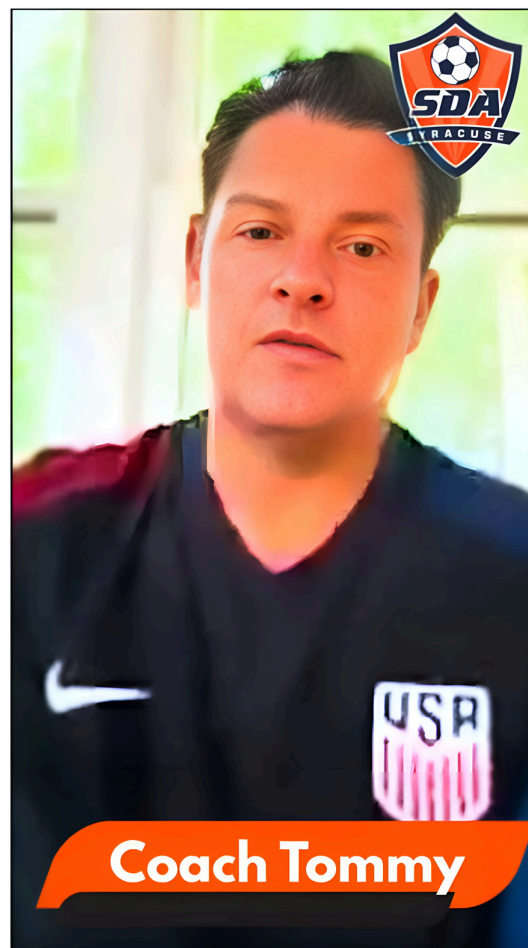
# TOMMY TANNER

## SDA 2009 GA HEAD COACH

Beyond the title, Tanner pointed to what SDA instills in players from a young age. Training against top competition, playing at high intensity, and being forced to adapt under pressure—these, he argued, are what prepare SDA athletes for the next level. “We compete at such a young age at such a high level,” he said. “That’s what helps these girls from year to year to grow.”

For Tanner, this championship was massive—a once-in-a-lifetime moment for many of the players. He compared it to winning the NCAA basketball tournament: a knockout gauntlet where a single mistake can end the dream. That SDA navigated it all, he said, was testament to their character, preparation, and belief. “To think that they could win a national championship—it’s still pretty amazing.”

Looking forward, Tanner is already thinking about what comes next. He hopes the younger SDA teams will follow the same path, learning from the culture and expectations set by the 2009s. For now, though, he savors the achievement and the joy of seeing his players run onto the field as national champions—a reward years in the making.







# **JOIN THE SDA FAMILY**

**Know a passionate soccer player eager to expand their game or a family who wants to learn about the world of SDA?**

**Share your SDA experience with them and encourage them to reach out to us. Have them email us at [syracuseda@gmail.com](mailto:syracuseda@gmail.com) for an in-depth exploration of what SDA has to offer.**

**Your involvement could make a positive difference in their soccer journey.**



# 2009 GA NATIONAL CHAMPION ROSTER

**HEAD COACHES:  
BROOKE BARBUTO  
TOMMY TANNER**

**FRANCESCA CANZANO**

**LILIANA SANTORO**

**ASHLYN DALTON**

**TIFFANI SCHAEFER**

**MACIE DAVEY**

**ABBY SCHNEIDELMAN**

**CLARA DUGGAN**

**ELYZA SMITH**

**ALEXIS FRAGNITO**

**MADISON TRUAX**

**MEGHAN JONES**

**JOCelyn TURSHMAN**

**OLIVIA JONES**

**ALEXANDRA VIGLIOTTI**

**ALIE KAUP**

**AVERY WOOD**

**MARIELLE KENNEDY**

**MARY KATHERINE**

**ELIZABETH RAYHILL**

**YOUNG**





**SDA 2009 GA**

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**















## SDA GIRLS SOCCER TEAM HEADED TO NATIONALS



MLB



WILDFIRE

VS



ARIZONA

9:10 pm

SO





















