



JANUARY 1, 2026

SDA MAGAZINE

**SDA BOYS
COACH
ARNE
WARLOP**

**MARIELLE
KENNEDY
DRIVE FOR
GIVING BACK**

**UNDEFEATED
TEAMS**

**UPCOMING
EVENTS!**

ALUMNI PROFILE

TJ TANNER

**CRUSHING
SOCCER AND
COMPUTER
SCIENCE**

**TWO SDA ALL-
AMERICANS!**

**2026
COMMITTS**





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COACH SPOTLIGHT: ARNE WARLOCK

Before we begin, one small clarification from Arne himself: football is soccer (and no, not American football).

When SDA welcomed Arne Warlock last winter, it didn't take long for him to feel right at home. Originally from Belgium, Arne joined SDA coaching the 2011/12 boys and immediately connected with the club's culture, people, and approach to player development.



Finding a Home at SDA

"I started coaching at SDA last winter and from day one it felt like a family club," Arne says. "That feeling came from the coaches and staff immediately." One of the biggest adjustments was winter. In Belgium, Arne trained outdoors nearly year-round. Snowy fields and regular indoor sessions were new—but also something he came to enjoy.

The competitive environment also stood out. Travel distances are longer, tournaments span multiple states, and the overall vibe is different, adding a unique dimension to the football experience.

Since joining SDA, Arne has embraced learning from fellow coaches like Casey Murphy, Mike Paolini, and Tommy Tanner. The environment encourages idea sharing and collaboration, making the transition seamless.


A Lifetime in Football

Arne has been involved in football since the age of five. Growing up in Belgium, he played at a high level and competed at interprovincial level with FC Gullegem until age 18.



“YOU TRAIN THE WAY YOU PLAY,
AND YOU PLAY THE WAY YOU
TRAIN,” HE SAYS. SIMPLICITY
REMAINS THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE.





He later faced the European choice between university and football. While he continued playing at a regional senior level, his passion increasingly shifted toward coaching.

Evolution From Player to Coach

Arne began coaching at 18, initially as a hobby. Over the next decade, he coached at FC Gullegem with players aged U7–U11 and completed UEFA coaching courses that shaped his philosophy.

For Arne, football must always be fun—especially for young players. Sessions emphasize ball contact, learning through play, and maintaining joy, balanced with focus and discipline.

“You train the way you play, and you play the way you train,” he says. Simplicity remains the guiding principle.

Arne focuses on players aged 7–12, often called the “golden age” in Europe. This is when technical and mental foundations are built, and progress can be seen quickly.

Arne currently coaches the 2017 and 2015 SDA Boys teams while working full-time as a Product Manager at ICM Controls. Despite the busy schedule, he finds the experience incredibly rewarding.

Looking Ahead

Arne is excited for summer tournaments, travel, and possibly one day bringing SDA teams to Europe. “There are amazing tournaments in Belgium,” he says. “Maybe it’s time to make it happen.”

A group of young soccer players in orange jerseys are standing in front of a goal. A soccer ball is visible in the upper left corner. The players are looking towards the right side of the frame. The text is overlaid on an orange circular shape in the foreground.

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 for an in-depth exploration of what SDA has to offer.

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

TJ TANNER

TJ Tanner didn't explode onto the scene at 14. He didn't dominate older kids right away. He didn't walk into college soccer and instantly look like he belonged.

What he did instead was show up — year after year — and slowly turn himself into a player coaches trust. It started simply. Really simply.

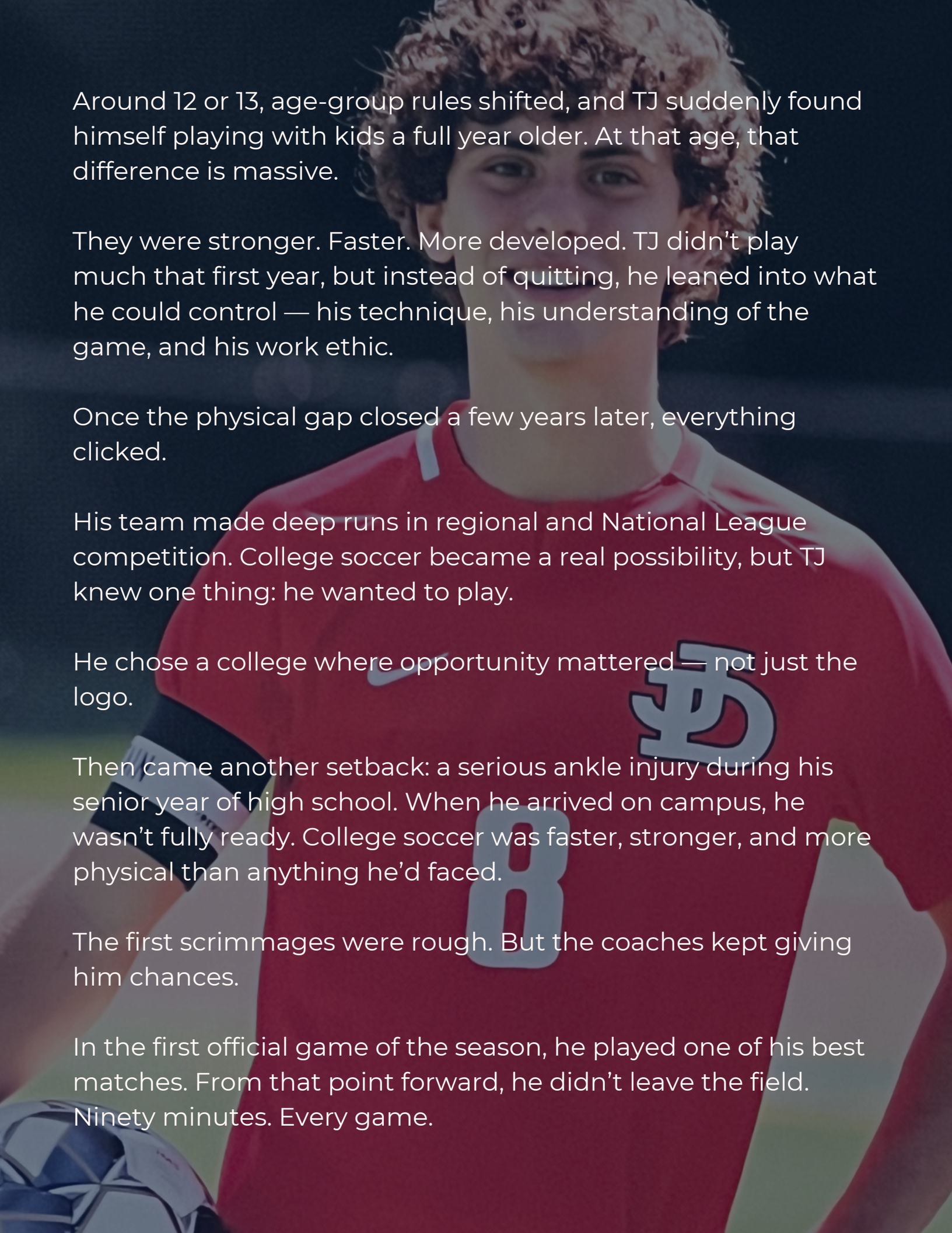


TJ's first soccer memories aren't about trophies or rankings. They're about small fields, small goals, and having fun.

He was six or seven, playing rec soccer, coached by his dad. No pressure. No hype. Just playing.

As he got older, the fields got bigger, the games got faster, and expectations crept in. He joined club soccer at SDA, loved his team, and felt like he was on a good path.

Then came the year everything changed.



Around 12 or 13, age-group rules shifted, and TJ suddenly found himself playing with kids a full year older. At that age, that difference is massive.

They were stronger. Faster. More developed. TJ didn't play much that first year, but instead of quitting, he leaned into what he could control — his technique, his understanding of the game, and his work ethic.

Once the physical gap closed a few years later, everything clicked.

His team made deep runs in regional and National League competition. College soccer became a real possibility, but TJ knew one thing: he wanted to play.

He chose a college where opportunity mattered — not just the logo.

Then came another setback: a serious ankle injury during his senior year of high school. When he arrived on campus, he wasn't fully ready. College soccer was faster, stronger, and more physical than anything he'd faced.

The first scrimmages were rough. But the coaches kept giving him chances.

In the first official game of the season, he played one of his best matches. From that point forward, he didn't leave the field. Ninety minutes. Every game.

His advice to younger players is simple and blunt:

“Come in fit. Not just ready to pass fitness tests — ready to dominate them.

College seasons are short. Trust is earned quickly.

Now heading into his senior year, TJ credits SDA for preparing him — mentally and physically — for the jump to college soccer. The variety of systems, the honesty about the grind, and the emphasis on fit all mattered.

Off the field, TJ is completing a dual degree in Computer Science and Information Science. While he's open to whatever soccer brings next, he's grounded about his future.

His advice to younger players is simple and blunt: come in fit. Not just ready to pass fitness tests — ready to dominate them.

College seasons are short.
Trust is earned quickly.

TJ Tanner's story isn't flashy. It's steady. It's earned. No shortcuts. No skipped steps.



US SOCCER COACHES ALL AMERICANS

FALL 2025

ALL-AMERICAN



**LEXIE
FRAGNITO**
09 SDA GA



**JACK
DUTTER**
**09 SDA MLS
NEXT AD**



Marielle Kennedy and the Work That Strengthens a Community



Behind the scenes at Syracuse Development Academy, much of the club's charitable impact has been shaped by the steady leadership of Marielle Kennedy. Since joining the advisory panel, Marielle has consistently helped turn ideas discussed in monthly meetings into organized, meaningful action.

In 2023, she led SDA's holiday food drives around Thanksgiving and Christmas, coordinating donations from start to finish and personally delivering them to the CNY Food Bank. That experience set the foundation for her continued involvement—taking ownership and ensuring follow-through.

Her role expanded in 2024, when she helped organize toy drives for Golisano Children's Hospital and led a card-making initiative that resulted in 270 handmade cards for hospitalized children. That same year, as the 2009 age group's representative for Tillie's Touch

Christmas Wish, she helped coordinate gifts for five children, ensuring each received everything on their wish list.

By 2025, Marielle was helping manage donation drives across multiple age groups. She coordinated with Golisano Hospital, created flyers, organized collections, and managed communication with families and volunteers for older SDA teams. She also supported a youth equipment drive that collected dozens of cleats, shin guards, socks, and other essential gear—items that directly expanded access to the game.

Through consistent organization and quiet leadership, Marielle has helped ensure that SDA's impact reaches well beyond the field—reinforcing community, service, and shared responsibility.



“Being part of SDA has given me the chance to organize everything from toy drives to holiday food drives, and delivering those donations—whether to local families or the CNY Food Bank—has shown me how much of a difference our group can make together.”



UNDEFEATED



**SDA 2012 GIRLS GA WENT
UNDEFEATED AT THE BINGHAMTON
CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT. THEY
SCORED 11 GOALS AND GAVE UP ZERO**



GALLERY





GALLERY



UPCOMING EVENTS

-JANUARY/FEBRUARY

- BEST OF THE EAST

[HTTPS://WWW.WHOSBEST.SOCCER/](https://www.whosbest.soccer/)

BOYS: JAN 17-18

GIRLS: JAN 31- FEB 1



-FEBRUARY- PENN FUSION

BOYS:

FEB 21-22, 2026

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/PENNFUSIONBOYS26](https://tinyurl.com/pennfusionboys26)



GIRLS:

FEB 14-15

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/PENNFUSIONGIRLS26](https://tinyurl.com/pennfusiongirls26)



-FEBRUARY-- SUSA (GIRLS)

FEB 20-22

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/LONGISLANDELITE](https://tinyurl.com/longislandelite)

