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NSC Minnesota Stars will play two home games during Schwan's USA CUP

BLAINE, Minn. (June 22, 2010) – While youth soccer is the focus of the Schwan's USA CUP, professional soccer will take center stage during two nights of the National Sports Center's premier tournament. The NSC Minnesota Stars will play two home games, hosting the FC Tampa Bay Rowdies on July 10 and AC St. Louis four nights later.

The Stars play in the USL Conference of the USSF Division 2 Pro League. The 12-team league is the second division of soccer in the United States and Canada, occupying a tier directly below Major League Soccer. Players in the USSF D2 Pro League hail from 54 countries on six continents. One player, FC Tampa Bay's Jeremy Christie, even represented New Zealand at this summer's FIFA World Cup.

The international makeup of the USSF D2 Pro League will compliment the international flavor of USA CUP, which emphasizes the building of camaraderie between participants of different countries. All USA CUP participants will have an opportunity to take in two games featuring the top level of pro soccer in Minnesota.

Stars players will be on the NSC campus throughout the tournament to support an event many of them played in and have fond memories of.

"The USA CUP is a wonderful opportunity for the youth player to experience world's game in a truly international setting," Stars defender Max Lipset said. Lipset is originally from St. Paul, so the USA CUP is close to his home as well as his heart.

"I had a great time," said Stars defender Scott Lorenz, who hails from the Chicago area. "Definitely one of the coolest tournaments I went to as a kid."

By Alex Haueter, NSC Minnesota Stars Media Coordinator