

News Release

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Chicago Kickers Soccer Club Host Italian Team AC Mantova

The weekend of April 26th and 27th was a very busy one for the Chicago Kickers and the Village of Lake Villa. On Saturday, the youth team from Mantova, Italy came to town for a visit and a friendly game of soccer. Upon their arrival at O'Hare airport in Chicago, they were met by a contingent of Chicago Kickers soccer players and their families, who would serve as their hosts while they were in town.

The game was played on Sunday at Carthage College in Kenosha, and won by AC Mantova by a score of 6-2. Below is a picture of both youth teams, AC Mantova in Red and Chicago Kickers SC in White.



The General Manager of AC Mantova is Maurizio Ruberti, the Head Coach is Ermes Ghiradi, the Trainer is Elia Berti, and their Physical Therapist is Paolo Belingheri.

The Head Coach of the Chicago Kickers is Kurt Blechner, Assistants John Georg and Harry Korosis, and Trainer David Adkisson.

After the game, both teams returned to the Chicago Kickers Club House in Lake Villa, and enjoyed homemade American/German style cooking and socializing. The Mayor of Lake Villa, Frank Loffredo, was also in attendance. After dinner, the two new friends exchanged gifts as a token of their international friendship. Below, Mayor Loffredo offers Fabio Aldini, (the Alderman for Youth Athletic and Cultural Development from Mantova, Italy's Office of the Mayor), an official flag of the Village of Lake Villa.



Officials pictured, front l-r, Fabio Aldini, Frank Loffredo, Bill Zettlmeier (President of Chicago Kickers SC), Mrs. Roberta Raineri (assistant to Mr. Aldini), Harry Korosis, and kneeling, Kurt Blechner.
Also pictured, behind Mr. Aldini is Mrs. Antonella Ruberti, Elia Berti, and Maurizio Ruberti.

Lake Villa also presented Mantova with a copy of the History of Lake Villa and several other small tokens representing the heritage of our village. The representatives of AC Mantova also came bearing gifts. They presented the Mayor with a history book of Mantova, Italy, a porcelain Coat of Arms of AC Mantova Football Club and an AC Mantova Jersey with the Mayor's name on the back.

After a weekend of festivities in Lake Villa, the group from Mantova, Italy moved on. On Monday they traveled to Chicago to tour the city and do some shopping. Afterwards, they will head north to visit their sister city of Madison, Wisconsin. While in Madison, they will also play several friendly matches with some local teams. On Thursday, May 1st, they head back to O'Hare Airport in Chicago for their return flight to Mantova, Italy.