

..... OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

WI ODP FEATURED ALUMNI



TIM WARD | 1987
WI ODP | 1999-2003



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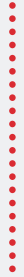


Where did you ODP take you? What was your favorite trip/memory?

Places I got to play with ODP included Italy, Costa Rica, Holland, Germany, Illinois, Iowa, Florida, California, and Ohio. My favorite trip was to Italy with the Region 2 ODP team. We played in a tournament against Bayern Munich, Juventus, Lazio, and Torino. We won the tournament in penalties and had players like Michael Bradley, Will Johnson, Michael Holody, Brad Ring, and Trevor Banks (WI). Our team administrator for the trip was Marshall Murray from Wisconsin. He made us a deal for each game we won, we would get gelato at a local shop. As the tournament went on, we kept negotiating with him for more scoops for each trip. After we won the final, I think he said we could get as many as gravity would allow.



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How do you think ODP prepared you for college & soccer at the next level?

ODP was the start of my journey and helped prepare me for the [U.S.] Youth National Teams, college, and professional. It allowed me to play with the top players from Wisconsin and learn things that I was not learning at my club. It also taught me that I had to be prepared for every tryout and training session because time was limited and I had to perform to make the team each year or move on to the regional team.



Soccer resume:

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- U.S. Youth National Team (U-17, U-18, U-20, & U-23)
- Two U-20 World Cups (Holland & Canada)
- 1 year at Saint Louis University
- 8 years in MLS (NY Red Bulls, Columbus Crew, Chicago Fire, & San Jose Earthquakes)

Ward (left) vs. Juan Pablo Angel (right)
Getty Images



What non-soccer lessons did you learn through ODP?

The lesson that still stands out to me is to always act professional. What this meant was to be on time, be respectful, and to be the best you can be. I still apply these things on a daily basis and I feel it has helped me be successful both on and off the field.

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