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U18/19s wrap up at Boys DA Winter Showcase

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Sunday marked the final day of games at the Boys Development Academy Winter Showcase for the U18/19 sides.

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With one last chance to compete in front of scouts and college coaches, below is a roundup of some of the standouts from the games in Florida.

M [Collins Muigai Gitau](#), Houston Dynamo Youth Soccer – A recent addition to the setup at Houston Dynamo Youth, Gitau’s shown a knack for finding the back of the net already. He scored twice in Sunday’s final outing, getting goals in the final 10 minutes to secure a last-gasp win.

F [Dennis Mensah](#), Bethesda SC – A two-goal performance from Mensah, sandwiched around teammate [Aidan Rocha](#)’s tally, were key in securing victory, in this case a 3-1 victory against United Futbol Academy.

M [Brandon Pineda](#), Arsenal FC – Another wild game in the morning between Arsenal FC and Minnesota Thunder, Pineda helped the California side pull out a 3-2 victory, scoring twice in leading his side to the win.

D [Leonardo Sepulveda](#), LA Galaxy – Putting in a solid shift at the back for the Galaxy Academy, Sepulveda went the distance as LA put the shackles on a PDA side that had enjoyed plenty of joy the first two days of the Winter Showcase. The shutout set the platform for the Galaxy’s 1-0 triumph.

M Federico Tellez, Weston FC – Tellez needed only a half to land on the standouts sheet, as he scored twice in a 4-1 win against D.C. United, before being subbed out at the break.

F Dante Sealy, FC Dallas – It was a comfortable win for FCD on the final day in Florida, beating Pateadores by a 5-1 score. Sealy, who is a 2002 playing up with the U19s, continues to show that he can beat older defenders. He got himself a goal and did very well on the day.

M [Josue Varela](#), Real So Cal – The California U18/19 sides wrapped up their time in Florida with a 4-0 win against Seacoast United. Varela’s hat trick in the final 11 minutes of the game provided the comfortable margin.

F [Victor Bezerra](#), Chicago Fire – A future [Indiana](#) forward, Bezerra was back in the scoring column today, bagging both goals for the Fire in a 2-0 win over the New England Revolution.

D [Blake Malone](#), Sounders FC – With a 1-0 win against the Union, the Sounders U19s wrapped up the trip to Florida with a perfect three wins in three. Malone was once again a key figure at the back, demonstrating his ability to lead the team’s defense and keep the shutout.

M [Bradley Sample](#), Sockers FC – Committed to [Louisville](#) for 2019, Sample was among the goals in Sunday’s 4-0 victory Barca Academy. He cracked open the scoring with a first-half tally just a bit more than 20 minutes into the game.

GK [Brooks Thompson](#), Sporting KC – Playing up with the U18/19 for the bulk of the season, Thompson’s enjoyed a solid run since joining the Sporting KC Academy for the current campaign. He made a couple of crucial interventions in a 1-0 win over Sacramento Republic, contributing to SKC’s shutout on the final day.

M [Brenden Aaronson](#), Philadelphia Union – Despite coming up short against a very good Seattle Sounders side, Aaronson was head and shoulders the best player on the field for the Union. The Homegrown signing got himself in dangerous spots and looked the most likely to make something happen to get Philadelphia a goal.

M Luca Petrasso, Toronto FC – Finishing up with a third win in three days at the Showcase, Toronto FC cruised to a 5-1 win agianst IMG Academy. Petrasso scored twice as part of a four-goal blitz in the game’s first 25 minutes that set the tone for a strong finish.

D [Michael Chung](#), Crossfire Premier – Part of a strong team defensive effort, the [Brown](#)-bound defender helped his side keep a zero, en route to a 1-0 victory against the Houston Dynamo.

M [Luis Arriaga](#), Real Salt Lake – Having signed a Homegrown contract before hopping on the plane to Florida, Arriaga cued Real Salt Lake’s 2-1 comeback victory against New York Red Bulls. Trailing 1-0 heading into stoppage time, Arriaga bagged the tying goal before teammate Julian Vasquez won before the final whistle blew.

F [Jefferson Alade](#), Vancouver Whitecaps – The big striker was a handful off the bench in Vancouver’s 3-0 win against Canadian rivals Montreal Impact. Alade provided a pair of goals after entering as a second-half sub.

M [Thomas Roberts](#), FC Dallas – The attacking midfielder was smooth with possession, making good decisions throughout FCD’s win against Pateadores. Like Sealy, he punctuated a strong day with a goal, getting the first of the day.

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GK [Aurie Echevarria-Briscoe](#), PDA – Even though his side fell 1-0 against LA Galaxy, Echevarria kept the score line close. He made an impressive save from a well-taken penalty kick to keep scores close.

D [Nico Benalcazar](#), New York City FC – Played right back in New York City FC's 3-1 win against Michigan Wolves. Benalcazar showed why he is so highly rated and heading to [Wake Forest](#): he's mature, makes good decisions and was good with his one-on-one defending.

M Jovany Herrera, Real Colorado – Once again the Real Colorado No. 10 showed he can score, create and cause mayhem in the opposition final third, as he did in Sunday's 3-1 win over Chargers SC. Herrera scored twice, with both goals coming in the second half.

F [Remy Bofola](#), NC Fusion – Thanks in part for Bofola's two goals on the day, NC Fusion finished the Showcase strong with a 3-2 win against Internationals.

M [Joshua Atencio](#), Sounders FC – The U.S. youth international stamped his authority on Seattle's win, wrapping up their time in Florida. He controlled play from central midfield, was smooth on the ball, defended well and made good decisions.

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