



16 January 2008

Local girls shoot for glory

The squad for the England Women U15's training camp, taking place from the 19th- 21st February 2008 at Lillleshall National Sports Centre, has now been announced and includes call-ups for two Middlesbrough Girls Centre of Excellence players.

Both Ellie Christon and Beth Mead are aged 14 and have played at the Centre for 2 years.

To be selected for the squad the girls had to attend a day long regional talent camp along with a host of other Centre of Excellence nominated players. This gave the girls a chance to work with other talented players from the area whilst giving FA coaches and scouts an extended period in which to assess the girls.

One of the main aims of the camps is to identify potential future international players and all the girls chosen from these regional camps will now meet up for a national training camp.

The U15's is the first step on the road to becoming a full England international, with squads at U15, U17, U19, U23 and first team levels.

Centre Director, Craig Nicholson said;

"I have been coaching these two girls since they were ten years old and they have made unbelievable progress. To get selected for the U15 squad is a massive achievement and the girls deserve immense praise for their hard work and professionalism throughout their time here.

Having the girls selected justifies the FA's support of the Centre of Excellence programme and this is hopefully a sign of what is to come for more of our girls here."

Paul Krezcak, Women and Girls Football Development Officer for Tees Valley Sport, added;

“It’s a fantastic opportunity for the two girls and also a great achievement for Craig and the coaches at Middlesbrough Girls Centre of Excellence who are doing a great job developing their talented players. The two girls previously played for local clubs and great credit must also go to them for the excellent job they are doing within girls’ football at grassroots level”.