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## Perris Residents Share LA Galaxy Excitement at Stub Hub Center



Three generations of the Gallegos family attended the Sept. 21 pro soccer match: dad Tony Gallegos, mom Sonia Gallegos, grandma Hortencia Gallegos and children John and Kaylee, 6, and Layla, 7.

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Perris soccer players and parents took center stage at the Stub Hub Center near Los Angeles recently as City-sponsored Pee Wee and Mighty Might youngsters enjoyed a series of VIP privileges.

Perris soccer players got to sit on the LA Galaxy II bench with the team mascot, Cosmo. A couple of lucky kids got to pose for a team photo with the Galaxy II squad.

And Team Perris took to the pitch for a spirited scrimmage during halftime.

"What an awesome experience for our kids!" said Recreation Coordinator Josh Estrada, who represented the City at the Sept. 21 match. "They got to meet real-life soccer players, soak in the atmosphere of a professional soccer game and witness the action up close and personal. Perris is a soccer town and we wanted to give them a great experience. This experience will create memories for a lifetime."



### Supporting the future

Tony and Sonia Gallegos came to Stub Hub Center with their three children—Layla, 7, and twins Kaylee and John, 6—along with grandma, Hortencia Gallegos.

"It's fun, it's exciting to meet the players," Tony Gallegos said. "We get to support our kids and keep them motivated in sports. It's all about the kids. The City of Perris does a great job in supporting our children. They're our future."

Gallegos looked at the Galaxy II players warming up pre-game and said to his children: "One day that could be you."



Daniel Ayala gives his son Christian, 4, a kiss during the soccer match at Stub Hub Center.

Soccer mom Diana Tarez said the trip to see the Galaxy II provided a great experience for her kids and other Perris Mighty Might and Pee Wee participants. Her son, Salvador, 3, is part of Perris soccer. Tarez said the City program teaches not only basic skills but valuable lessons about teamwork, discipline and respect for coaches, teammates and opponents.

"We like soccer," Tarez said. "It's a family thing. We root for the Galaxy."

Tarez said Salvador enjoyed sitting with Cosmo the team mascot, practicing skills like dribbling and passing and watching the pros in action.

"The whole environment is exciting," she said. "The City of Perris does a great job with its soccer program."



Perris soccer players and parents pose for a group picture prior to the start of the Sept. 21 match at Stub Hub Center.

Daniel Ayala attended the Galaxy II game with his son, Christian, 4, a Perris Pee Wee. He said soccer provides a great father-son bonding experience.

"I love soccer," Daniel Ayala said. "We've been practicing skills at home, where we have a goal and spend our Saturdays watching soccer."

Like other parents, Ayala credited the City of Perris for working to make the experience possible.

"I'm loving this," he said, looking back at the pros going at it on the Stub Hub pitch. "The City of Perris' programs provide more of a future for our kids. One day, hopefully I'll see my son out there."



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