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January 30, 2012 – Avalon FC is proud to announce its affiliation with the West Ham United International Academy as a Partner Club. The Academy, based in the UK, prepares and trains young soccer players for professional futures in the sport. They have outreach programs in Asia, Oceania and North America.

The President of Avalon FC said "Avalon is extremely excited for this partnership and the opportunities it offers for the players and coaches to become part of an exceptional program and be exposed to soccer at the highest levels. West Ham United & Tony Carr are renowned for their youth academy and the players they have developed".

The International Academy has been established as part of the West Ham United Academy; both are part of the West Ham United Football Club. The academy is one of the most respected youth soccer academies in the world, with alumnae in top levels of professional soccer and under the distinguished direction of Tony Carr. Carr, a coach for over 38 years, recently received an MBE (order of chivalry) from the Queen for his services to soccer. The International Academy aims to develop partnerships and programs in North America as well as share coaching methodology to provide their own professional-level preparation in the United States and Canada.

Avalon FC was founded in 1988 and is based in St. Charles County, MO with practice fields in St. Peters, MO and Maryland Heights, MO. Avalon currently has nearly 600 registered competitive male & female players ages 8-18 that compete throughout the Midwest. In 2011, Avalon graduated over 30 players that have gone on to play at the collegiate level and will be sending its first U/19 groups to compete in the 2012 Missouri State Cup as part of the US Soccer National Series.

This summer Avalon FC will host a West Ham Regional Elite ID Camp where players will be trained and evaluated by West Ham Academy and International Academy coaches & trainers. High level players selected from this ID camp will attend the West Ham National Camp, which is invite-only based on the regional identification camps. The West Ham United National Camp will take place in Rome, GA in late July and early August 2012. A select group of players from the national camp will be invited to attend a 10-day West Ham United Academy Experience in London.

Additionally, Avalon FC coaches will be afforded the opportunity to travel to England to become licensed West Ham coaches and participate with the academy of West Ham United Football Club allowing the club to offer continual instruction and guidance that follows the same curriculum as the home academy.

Players interested in qualifying for the 2012 West Ham National Camp should attend the West Ham United Elite Player ID Camp in St. Charles, MO June 25-28, 2012. Registration is available online through the West Ham website at www.westhamacademyinternational.com.