



Kovar Invited to National Team Camp

Heat player Vanessa Kovar was featured in an article by Dave Utnik on insidenova.com after she was selected to attend the U15 U.S. National Team training camp. The article follows:

Forest Park's Vanessa Kovar will attend U.S. U-15 girls training camp



Vanessa Kovar

By [DAVE UTNIK](#)

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Prince William County, Va. - She was 10-years-old and Vanessa Kovar had already made up her mind. She was going to play professional soccer one day.

Of course, she'd graduate from Forest Park High School first and earn a scholarship to a nationally ranked program like the University of North Carolina.

She would work out all those details later.

The important thing was that Kovar knew what she wanted to do with her life. Soccer had won her heart.

"I wanted to be out on the field and I wanted everybody watching me," she said.

Kovar has spent virtually every day since then developing her footwork and shooting skills in hopes of fulfilling her childhood dream.

Only now, she truly appreciates what playing at that level requires. The Forest Park High School sophomore is on the field and everybody is watching. She's also on the precipice of solidifying her place as one of the best 15-year-olds in the country.

After helping the VSA Heat capture a Region I championship during the travel season, Kovar was among 24 players selected to attend the U.S. Under-15 Girls' National Training Camp this week in Sunrise, Fla.

"It's not just a dream anymore," she said. "It's really happening. I'm just so excited. This is definitely a really great opportunity and I really hope to take full advantage of it."

Kovar was one of two players from Virginia to receive an invitation to national camp, which is the first step toward building the international squad that will eventually compete in the 2012 FIFA U17 Women's World Cup in Azerbaijan.

"There's a possibility I could be in a World Cup," Kovar said. "That's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I definitely don't want to mess it up."

"Words can't even express how great that would be. I'm going to work really hard for it."

The Under-15 national team will play a pair of international matches against U17 teams during training camp, taking on the Korea Republic on Tuesday and Nigeria on Friday.

"It's amazing," said Kovar, who is among seven forwards on the national team. "I'm looking forward to seeing how they play."

And she's just as interested in finding out how she fares against older players who have already experienced the international style of play.

Just a few months ago, Kovar led Forest Park in assists as a freshman and achieved one important goal by helping the Bruins qualify for the Group AAA state tournament.

Now, her career is about to ascend to a completely different level.

"I definitely hope I do well," said Kovar, who has been on the U.S. National Team radar since attending the Under-14 Girls' Identification Camp at Cal Poly Pomona a year ago.

She is well-prepared for what's ahead. All those afternoons of practice with her older sister, Jacqueline, and year-round training with Gus Donolo and the VSA Heat, has enabled her to play just about anywhere on the field.

"I don't really have a set position. I just play wherever," said Kovar, whose future appears to be at forward.

"I love when my outside mids, or really anyone, crosses in a ball and I can head it in," she said. "That's just the best."

Imagine the thrill of hitting the back of the net as a member of Team USA.

For Kovar, it would literally be a dream come true.

"I'm so thankful for this opportunity," she said. "I can't wait."