

PRESS RELEASE



ASTON VILLA AND EVERTON WIN PREMIER LEAGUE SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

20 May 2008

Schools representing Aston Villa and Everton Football Clubs yesterday won a major football tournament played at a Premier League stadium.

Ipsley Middle School from Redditch won the Under 11 mixed Premier League Schools Tournament, winning a tight final match 3-1 against Holy Trinity Primary School, who played as Blackburn Rovers Football Club.

And Broughton Hall High School in West Derby won the Under 13 girls, winning a Merseyside derby final 2-0 against St Julie's High School from Woolton, who played in Liverpool's shirts.

The Premier League Schools Tournament, which has seen over 5,000 young people from around 600 schools take part, was played at Reading's Madejski Stadium. Each Premier League Club held their own tournament for schools in their area. The winners of each Club tournament earned the right to then wear that Club's strip in a regional final – and those regional winners qualified for the big day at the Madejski.

The tournament comprised of two separate six-a-side competitions – an Under 11 mixed and an Under 13 girls. Ipsley Middle School came through some tough group games at the Madejski against sides representing Tottenham Hotspur, Bolton Wanderers, Middlesbrough, Fulham, Reading and Manchester United before their final against Blackburn Rovers.

Broughton Hall High School's win was all the more impressive for the fact that they did not concede a single goal throughout the day's final matches at Reading

For all of the finalists it was a day to remember as they went through a full Premier League match day experience. The schools got to use the first team dressing rooms, run out on to the pitch through the tunnel and had their matches officiated by top flight referees Steve Bennett, Keith Stroud, Andrew Marriner, Lee Probert and Andy Wallmer.

The young players received sports equipment from Nike, along with trophies and medals presented by Premier League Chief Executive Richard Scudamore. He said:

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“Running out at a Premier League ground wearing their favourite club’s shirt will be something I am sure all of the young people who took part will never forget. The Schools Tournament offers them a fantastic opportunity to experience what it would be like to be a top player on a match day.

“All of our clubs do a huge amount of unsung work in their communities and this is just part of it. I am thrilled that we have been able to involve over five thousand boys and girls right across the country in the Premier League Schools Tournament.”

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. Details of the teams are below. Winners are in bold, runners up in italics:

Under 11 Mixed	Under 13 Girls
<i>Blackburn Rovers</i> (Holy Trinity Primary School)	Newcastle United (Durham Johnston Comprehensive School)
Bolton Wanderers (St Peter’s Smithills Dean CE Primary School)	Middlesbrough (Conyers)
Middlesbrough (Green Lane School)	Aston Villa (The Friary School)
Fulham (St Bernadette Catholic Schools)	Fulham (Ursuline Girls School)
Reading (Church End Primary School)	Chelsea (Southfields Community College)
Aston Villa (Ipsley Middle School)	Everton (Broughton Hall High School)
Tottenham Hotspur (Stamford Hill Primary School)	<i>Liverpool</i> (<i>St Julies High School</i>)
Manchester United (St Michael’s Primary School)	Derby (Long Eaton community School)

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2. The Premier League Schools Tournament is in its third year. For more information on the tournament, contact details for the schools participating, or to discuss any other community work that the Premier League is involved in, please contact Tim Vine on 020 7864 9179 or visit www.premierleague.com

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