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HO-HO-KUS, NJ—An 18-member girls soccer team, comprised of some of the top players in Northern New Jersey, received eight weeks of Muay Thai training from Master Phil Ross at his American Eagle Martial Arts Academy, located in Ho Ho Kus, NJ.

The team of 15-, 16- and 17-year-old girls was preparing for their August 1st – 13th international competition in three Brazilian cities, Sao Mateus, Jagure and Vitoria, which an American team had never previously visited. The girls and their parents credited Master Ross for increasing their stamina, strength and toughness. He also accompanied the team as its head trainer and chief of security. The team won all three of its full-field soccer games winning 1-0, 5-0 and 2-0. The girls played extremely tough and fought for every ball as they wore down their stronger, more mature Brazilian

counterparts. The average age of the Brazilian women that the Northern New Jersey girls played against was 24.

Ross stated, "Our girls were so tough. When they were knocked down or tripped, they immediately jumped up and returned to the play. The Brazilians and I were very impressed with the toughness displayed by the New Jersey team."

The team's visit was also an opportunity to support the children of Sao Mateus, with more than \$15,000 in soccer shoes, sneakers, shorts, shirts, sweats and other training equipment, raised from local New Jersey businesses and fundraisers.

The team and Master Ross also received congratulatory letters from the American Consulate in Rio de Janeiro and will be honored by New Jersey Governor John Corzine in November.