

VIAREGGIO 2014

The Official Viareggio Cup Draw!

The coastal city of Viareggio represents the 'riviera' beach strip of Italy, wedged on the northern shores of the Tyrrhenian Sea, 25 miles west of Pisa.

This prestigious youth cup was first established back in 1949 when 16 crack European youth club sides battled for a spot in the final.

The 1949 inaugural final saw Italian giant AC Milan defeat Lazio. Since 1949, the Viareggio cup tournament has rapidly expanded from the initial 16 participating clubs teams to now embrace no less than 36 clubs squads from all over the world, divided into 8 groups of four teams.

In 2014 the Viareggio cup will be the 66th torneo mondiale di calico staged.

However Juventus, Inter Milan, AC Milan and Fiorentina will enter in at the second round due to the newly formed youth European Cup competition they feature in.



APIA Leichhardt Tigers has drawn in what the organisers have touted the group of death.

In this group is Anderlecht the 2013 tournament champions who defeated AC Milan 3-0 are valued at approximately 4 million euros. Their 16 year old wonderkid playmaker **Youri Tielemans** will be a player to watch.

Napoli's squad is valued at approximately 1.5million Euro with Andrea Mancini son of Roberto Mancini former Manchester City and current Galatasaray manager, is likely to feature for the **Primavera** side. Also another player to watch will be Gennato Tutino the 17 year old right winger is equal leading goal scorer in the Campionato Primavera Group C.

Palmero's squad is valued at approximately 3million Euros, Cephas Malele a Swiss under 19 international has played 5 times this year for the Palmero first team, and is likely to grab some goals, scoring 8 goals in the Campionato Primavera Group C, just one goal behind Tutino of Napoli.

The Viareggio tournament has launched the playing careers of numerous international stars like Mario Balotelli and Sebastian Giovinco, among many others. This year the tournament will have squads from no less than 17 nations.

The 8 groups comprise of the following:

- Atalanta (Italy), Nordsjaelland (Denmark), Serie D Select (Italy), Club Guaranì (Paraguay)
- 2. Napoli (Italy), Anderlecht (Belgium), Palermo (Italy), APIA Leichhardt (Australia)
- 3. Roma (Italy), Benfica (Portugal), Livorno (Italy), Envigado (Colombia)
- 4. Torino (Italy), Stabaek (Norway), Siena (Italy), Santos Laguna (Mexico)
- 5. Sampdoria (Italy), Rijeka (Croatia), Reggina (Italy), Congo Under 17s (Congo)
- 6. Lazio (Italy), Belasica Strumica (Macedonia), Varese(Italy), Club Nacional (Paraguay)
- 7. Empoli (Italy), Psv Eindhoven (Holland), Verona (Italy), L.I.A.C New York (USA)
- 8. Parma (Italy), Pakhtakor (Uzbekistan), Spezia (Italy), Desportivo Brasil (Brazil)

Second Round - Juventus (Italy), Inter (Italy), Milan (Italy), Fiorentina (Italy)

Italian giant clubs have been the major conqueror of this cup tournament. Fiorentina, Juventus & Inter have each won the tournament, on no less than eight occasions.

The APIA tour squads includes; Michael Cimino, Mohamed Nasreddine, Blade Richards, Stephan Adattini, Georg Doudnik, Mathew Cook, Benjamin McCarron, Deen Khan, Matthew Zanon, Christopher Moore, Dean Morosin, Zac Ribeiro, Liam Unicomb, Lucas Wilkinson, Todd Millgate, Ben Cortese, Alex Schifino, David Filippou

Returning players Cook, McCarron, Moore, Millgate, Schifino, Filippou will be looking to improve on their excellent performances last year and now have a better understanding of the toughness that this competition brings.

APIA's long serving president Mr Tony Raciti stated: "We are extremely proud that this will be APIA Leichhardt Tigers 12th year that our historic club been accepted and invited to compete in this global, historically famous club youth tournament. "Our players will gain immeasurable vast knowledge whilst on this tour & will return to Australia as far better educated players. They will gain a much stronger, burning degree of desire to lift their very own game quality" Raciti concluded