

## **Breakaway 2001: A Day in DC:**

### **Saturday, August 25, 2000**

**430am: Rise and Shine.** Well not quite, approximately 100 children have risen but the sun is definitely still fast asleep. The children are up and getting ready for there day trip to Washington DC. They are a part of The Eddie Pope Urban Soccer League (sponsored by The Eddie Pope Foundation, Inc.) and they are preparing for a day of fun and learning (well they just know about the fun, they will be shocked by how much they also learn). They are going to participate in a day created just for them.

#### **Let the Fun Begin!**

Approximately 7 hours later..... 2 buses from High Point, North Carolina pull into RFK Stadium in Washington DC. The children very eager to stretch and run, are instructed to get off the bus and form several lines behind their group leaders for the day. As they say good-bye to the bus drivers, they are led to a group of eager volunteers, the Screaming Eagles, DC United's Supporter's Club. For the next 2 hours the children are treated to a cookout, face painting, games, etc. After loading up on hamburgers, hotdogs, and black and red beads the children (donned in red caps, matching t-shirts, and black back packs) said good-bye and thank-you to the Screaming Eagles and prepared to enter the stadium for the youth parade.

#### **It's Game Time**

After finishing their "lap" around the field, it was now time for the children to take their seats to witness what for many of them was a first: a professional soccer match. During the game the children cheered, laughed, sang DC United chants, and posed for many cameras. And all of that support must have helped because DC United won , something they had not done for several games.

#### **Can We talk?**

With the match over, DC United walking away victorious, and the crowd gone, the children settled down inside the stadium for a question/answer and photo session with Eddie Pope. After several questions and many camera clicks, the children said good-bye to Eddie and boarded the buses and vans for their last activity before heading home

#### **Let's Learn Something!**

The last stop before home: The FDR memorial. At the memorial, the children divided in groups of 10 entered the memorial with a set of questions designed to make them read information about President Franklin Roosevelt and his time as President. They had to extract and interpret the information inorder to come up with the right answer. Each team as timed and the winners would receive prizes to be given at the end of the day.

#### **Time to Eat and Say Good-bye!**

The day ended with a picnic by the tidal basin. The children feasted on chicken, bread, assorted chips, fruit and cake. After eating prizes were given and good-byes were said. After a final bathroom break the children boarded their buses and vans and headed home ( a short ride for some and long one for others) But either way, a day well worth the journey!

*What a great "break away" from the average Saturday afternoon many of these children experience. To all of those involved in making this day possible, THANK YOU! JOB WELL DONE!*