

## **“From Haiti with Hope” National Amputee Soccer Team visits Little Rock**

Little Rock, AR, October 28, 2015 - Birthed out of tragedy, the Haitian National Amputee Soccer Team visits Little Rock for a two-day event November 11-12. The team, made up of many current and former players who suffered amputation during the 2010 earthquake which killed over 300,000, are making a tour stop in Little Rock on their way to the Cup of the Americas competition in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Since their formation, the Haitian team has participated in two amputee World Cups and reached the final 8 in 2014. Currently the Haitians are ranked #7 in the world. The player who scored the winning goal in Haiti's sudden death win over Italy had to amputate his own leg to escape being trapped in the rubble of the 2010 quake. Also traveling with the Haitian team to Little Rock will be U.S. National Amputee Soccer Team member Craig Till, who has a dynamic story of tragedy to triumph, which he will share during the tour.

Founded by Dr. Fred Sorrells, the Haitian National Amputee Soccer team brings a message of hope from a place of desperation. Each player has his own unique story of struggle and persistence in overcoming unthinkable circumstances. Now as ambassadors of hope, these athletes project a spirit of encouragement and success to disabled and abled individuals alike.

Among the events planned during their Little Rock stop, the Haitian team will lay a wreath in the National Veterans Cemetery and visit Vets at Ft. Roots to show their support of those who have defended freedom and provided humanitarian assistance during the 2010 Haiti earthquake. The team will also participate in an exhibition game with the Bluebirds U17 team, meet with Governor Asa Hutchinson, and put on an indoor exhibition and art project to support Emily Buckley, a Saline County teenager who is battling bone cancer and has undergone a partial leg amputation.

Other interesting elements of the tour are a collection drive for new and used soccer uniforms and equipment for the Haitian youth and adult programs, an art exhibit featuring work by former player Francillon Chery and plans to form an amputee soccer league in Central Arkansas.

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### **Related Links:**

<http://thepursuitofhope.com/>

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