

Three Thoughts: Italy U15 BNT 2, USA 1

by Travis Clark

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The U.S. Under-15 BNT fell 2-1 against Italy at the Torneo Grande Nazioni.

A [Gavin Turner](#) goal pulled one back for the U.S., but the team couldn't overcome a 2-0 deficit for the second game in a row.

It was a wild, frenetic game between the two sides, and the U.S. had plenty of stretches of the semifinal matchup where it showed well. The U.S. will play in the third-place match on Sunday to wrap up its trip to Europe.

Here are three thoughts from the defeat.

An invaluable development experience

While a professional career is varying distances away for this roster, the experience on the field for the players involved is difficult to match.

Playing a third game in a week, against a talented Italian squad, the U.S. team once again acquitted themselves well. The defense, and goalkeeper [Zackory Campagnolo](#) faced big pressure at times; other sequences, the U.S. worked their way to control the run of play at other times. Campagnolo was excellent beyond the penalty save as well, making a handful of good saves.

The pace and intensity, even through a stream, was easy to spot. It's unlikely that the bulk of these players have played a game in these conditions prior to this week.

Pressing finally pays off

One of the standouts elements to the U.S. game was the team's willingness to press and put pressure on the back line.

[Nimfasha Berchimas](#) nearly scored the first goal for the U.S. thanks to high-pressure; before his mistake in the second half, the Italian goalkeeper had several nice moments where he did just enough to play through the U.S. pressure.

[Gavin Turner](#) made the breakthrough in the second half, forcing the goalkeeper into a mistake. It was arguably the most consistent way that the U15s were able to create chances, and it will be interesting to see how this age group continues develop.

The U.S. had chances

While the match was evenly poised for long stretches, the U.S. was able to do enough to cause issues for the Italy defense. Berchimas and Ruben Ramos Jr were both dangerous in flashes, while [Santiago Morales](#) flashed a chance just high that the Italy defense deflected over.

Italy deserves credit as well. One of the best teams at the competition, the defenders forced the U.S. attackers to rush their chances or deflected shots out of bounds.

Tightening up opportunities in the run of play is certainly one part of the game this age group can work on, but the 2007s looked impressive here.

U.S. lineup: [Zackory Campagnolo](#), [Michael Cortellessa](#), [Jeremiah White](#), [Neil Pierre](#), [Kyrome Lumsden](#), [Nathan Worth](#), Ruben Ramos, [Nimfasha Berchimas](#), [Luis Rivera](#), [Bryce Outman](#), [Santiago Morales](#)