

ELITE DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

The Elite Development Squad (EDS), made up primarily of U19 players, finished second in the U23 Premier League 2 and were knocked out of the UEFA Youth League by eventual winners Salzburg in a playoff to reach the quarter-final stage.

The young U23 team scored more goals than any other in PL2, and two of its members, Brahim Diaz and Phil Foden, enjoyed their first team debuts in the Capital One Cup and Champions League respectively.

Four EDS players made European finals with England. Lukas Nmecha and Isaac Buckley-Ricketts were part of the tournament-winning U19 team, and Phil Foden and Joel Latibeaudiere made it to the final with the U17s.

EDS members Thomas Agyepong, James Horsfield, Manu Garcia, Ash Smith-Brown and Pablo Maffeo were loaned to NAC Breda and Girona for the 2016-17 season, at the end of which both teams had achieved promotions to Eredivisie and La Liga respectively.

