

EXCLUSIVE LOCAL LAD TO TRAIN WITH SIDE THAT PUT LIVERPOOL OUT OF EUROPE

LUCKY LUKE KOPS ONTO BRAGA



TALENT: Luke Fisher with Tim Wareing

Wonderkid on radar of Portuguese

JOHN MCGURK

A SUPER-TALENTED Northern Ireland youngster has something to 'Braga' about — training at one of Europe's top soccer club academies.

Belfast boy wonder Luke Fisher is as modest as he is talented and wouldn't boast about catching the eye of coaches at top Portuguese team Braga.

But Sunday Life can reveal that Luke has been invited to train this Easter at the youth academy of the Portuguese giant killers who put Liverpool out of the Europa Cup. The 12-year-old Castlereagh boy will jet off to the land of soccer legends Ronaldo, Figo and Eusebio with delighted dad Martin and top youth soccer coach Tim Wareing.

He will spend four days at Braga's academy for under-13s learning soccer skills the Continental way.

Tim, who runs the TW Academy in Northern Ireland for boys and girls, said that the Portuguese trip should be "a fantastic experience".

"Taking him into a professional envi-

ronment is, first and foremost, the most important thing," he said.

"We will be bringing him into a European environment which is very different to what the typical UK soccer model is. It will be a fantastic experience for him at the end of the day."

Tim and his team of 20 coaches operate a wide variety of fun but educational programmes for all ability boys and girls — as well as elite academy training for youngsters like Luke.

All ability programmes include the successful toddler soccer scheme for two year olds and upwards and mini-soccer sessions for pre-teens — given the seal of approval by TV star Zoe Salmon!

Tim added: "I started to work with Luke on a one-on-one basis nearly two years ago.

"And now we work up to four times a week on one-on-one technical training. Every session that he comes into, Luke gives 100 percent. He totally deserves an opportunity like this."

■ **For more info on the TW Academy's programme visit twacademy.org**



FAN: Zoe