



Inside the 18

Arlington Travel Soccer Club

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From the President

As we close the book on the fall season and reflect on the year I'd like to first wish our coaches, players, and families the best of wishes during the upcoming holiday season. ATSC achieved a great measure of success in 2006 spanning 48 teams and over 700 players. Our focus on player development is at the core of what the club is all about, and the investment in the kids is paying dividends on the field.

It's important to recognize the club's achievements over the last year. Some highlights include: The first annual Arlington Spring Invitational Tournament. ATSC U9-U12 Skills Clinics. Goalkeeper Training. ATSC Summer Camp Program. College Night. ATSC controlled practice field permit. Adidas-Matt Godek uniform program. Co-Op Agreement with Springfield Youth Club. 9 league and 12 tournament

champions. 20 teams eligible for promotion. 27 ATSC players selected into the Virginia Olympic Development Program. 20 players graduated into college soccer programs. 10 ATSC coaches named to the Virginia ODP coaching staff.

ATSC is very fortunate to have a talented staff and dedicated volunteers. I want to thank everyone for allowing me to serve the club as President. In March I will hand off leadership of ATSC to a new President. The board recognizes our new leadership must emerge from the U11-U14 age groups. ATSC is well positioned as a travel soccer organization. We have great facilities, high level coaches, supportive parents, and motivated players. It's been a great ride, and I look forward to seeing the club continue to grow and provide great service to the players.

In closing I want to recognize the special contributions of the following people over the last year: Grant Smith - Coaching Director, Nancy Etkin - Outgoing Executive Director, Lizzy Stell - New Executive Director, Marta Cahill - Liason Arlington Sports, Ron Greenhalgh - Outgoing Treasurer & Volunteer of the Year, Lee Dudka - Boys Commissioner, Jim Fort - Girls

Inside this issue:

Season wrap-ups

Being "B"

Club News

Director of Coaching Update

Commissioner, Richard Easby - WAGs rep, Marc Ortmyer - Tournament Chairman, Bill Brothers - Tournament Treasurer, Luis Gendive - Coach of the Year, Gigi Peel - Uniform Coordinator, Barb Mullen-Roth - Search Committee, Maureen Lyons - Tryouts, Gayle Wilson - APD Clinics, Ruth McNamara - Registrar.

—Andy Megas, ATSC President



The U9 Rowdies celebrate their 1st place in the MCSA tournament. Pictured are Colleen, Sarah, Kate R., Kate M., Hayley, Jordan, Sophie, Ariana, Reilly, Fiona, Catie, and Rachel.



Season Wrap-up

Arlington Impact '91



Arlington Impact '91, coached by Walid Amer, wrapped up the autumn 2006 season on Sunday as runner up in ODSL U15G Division II with a 4-1-3 record. Counting tournament play, Impact '91 had only a single loss in the autumn season. The Impact led ODSL U15G Division II in scoring at 25 goals (with 9 allowed). The Impact's scoring tally was also the second highest in ODSL U15G after Division I champ Loudoun Fury, and among the lowest goals-allowed tally of the 22 teams in ODSL U15G. Impact had tied ODSL U15G Division II champ McLean Mavericks 2-2 earlier in the autumn season.

Arsenal U14

The Arlington Arsenal (U14 Boys, ODSL Div 3) soccer team successfully concluded its Fall 2006 season on November 12 with an impressive 5-2 win against the WSC Scorepeons! After finishing in last place in Spring 2006, Arsenal achieved a major comeback this season. New coach, "Mo" Tayari, has been a great addition to the Arsenal.



Tayari began coaching Arsenal in September, after an extensive personal soccer career as an offensive forward with the Tunisian national soccer team and the professional team, Enfida Sport. The team picture was taken to celebrate Arsenal's October 22 win against the MCSA Tigres FC (also a score of 5-2) and Coach Tayari's 27th birthday on the same day. Members of the Arsenal include (from left to right): (Top) Coach Mo Tayari, Gustavo Mariaca, Erik Anastos, Tyler Kennedy, Joel Ruckle, Sebastian Moorefield, Will Ferguson, Drew Nash, Ryan Maloney; (Bottom) Max Blackman, Michael Nardacci, Michael Yuhas, Max Stern, Colin Richardson, Chaabane Bekkadja, and Daniel Browning (goalie).

FC Arlington

The FC Arlington U14 boys travel soccer team won the Fall, 2006 NCSL Division 5 champi-



onship with a 5-1-3 record. They clinched first place and advancement to Division 4 next spring, by besting the Olney Panthers 3-1 in their last game of the season. The team is coached by Farzad Mahmoudpour, an exceptional teacher, and is capably managed by Robbie Brehaut. See www.fcarlington.com for more information. Go FC!

Intensity Blue

Intensity Blue U-13 girls ended the regular season in ODSL division 2 with a record of 5-1-2 and outscored their opponents 22-8. The team's only defeat of the season came back on Sept. 10, in a hotly contested 2-1 loss to the GSC Spirit,



which went on to win the division. That was also the only game in which Intensity Blue gave up more than one goal. The successful ODSL season should prepare Intensity Blue for a return to WAGS for the Spring 2007 season. The team, which is coached by Quan Phan, finished up the fall season at the MCSA Fall Classic on Nov. 17-18.

Season Wrap-up

U9 Rowdies

The Arlington Rowdies Red completed their undefeated season, the first by a U9 Arlington girls team in recent history, finishing with a 7-0-2 record. Rowdies Red managed to tally 41 goals by ten different players led by Gabby Cabrales with 9 goals, and allowed only 15 goals against. The Rowdies take their undefeated streak into the MCSA Fall Classic this weekend with the hopes of extending the streak through four more matches. Congratulations Rowdies Red on an outstanding season!



Rowdies Red are: Sophie, Gabby, Kristin, Jordan, Julia, Katie, Keelyn, Rebecca, Kate, Bryanna, Annie and Hayley and are coached by Jerry Ellison and Lauren Harris.

The Arlington Rowdies Blue completed an outstanding season finishing 5-3-1. Led by Rachel Cummins and Alicia Huggett, each with 7 goals the Blue scored one goal for every three shots they took all season tallying 36 goals by nine dif-

ferent players while allowing only 22 against. Rowdies Blue will participate in the MCSA Fall Classic opposite their sister team Rowdies Red hoping to deliver Red their first defeat of the season and take home the championship themselves. Way to go Rowdies Blue!



Rowdies Blue are: Colleen, Alicia, Fiona, Kate, Catie, Reilly, Sarah, Tara, Bryn, Jordan, Ariana and Rachel and are coached by Jerry Ellison and Sonora Majkut.

Congratulations U9 Rowdies Blue— MCSA Fall Classic Champions!

The Rowdies Blue along with 3 guest players from Rowdies Red made the most of their debut tournament by bringing the championship home to Arlington. In the opening match the Blue played an FPYC Cannonieri team who defeated them 6-1 during the WAGS season and played them to a hard fought 4-4 draw. The second match proved a bit less challenging as they defeated the MASA Arsenal 5-1 and won their bracket by point differential. Both Rowdies Red and Rowdies Blue won their respective brackets with Red facing FPYC in the semi finals and Blue facing host MCSA team in their semifinal

match. Blue made quick work of the host team defeating them 5-1 while the Red was outgunned losing to FPYC 6-0, their first loss ever, setting up a final between FPYC and Rowdies Blue. Blue outlasted their opponent to a well deserved 3-2 victory, by far the most challenging match this young team has faced.

Arlington U11 Team Went to Hungary This Summer

The Arlington Suprema U11 travel team competed in a tournament in Kaposfar, Hungary this summer. With no other U11 U.S team competing, they were representing America. They competed against teams from all over the world, including Hungary, England, Serbia and Slovenia. They went 1-3 beating the British team



in the consolation game. That was the first time the Suprema team had been out of Virginia or Maryland. The Suprema team was made up of the A, (Firestorm), B, (Inferno) and C, (Blaze), team players from the Arlington Travel Soccer Association. The coach was Coach Frank Demarco .

Being “B”

Rising U-18/19 Boys Alliance

“What about the B team?” parents ask. What if your child isn’t skilled/passionate/committed/big/strong enough (choose your adjective) to make the A team?

You’ve dealt with the disappointment. Now what? Well, there is a lot that comes from being a part of the B team, and the rewards are many, as our family has found. Yes, there is that stigma that your child wasn’t “good” enough, but once you move beyond that, there is much to experience and look forward to.

Being B has its challenges. There may not be as many training opportunities or tournaments or travel. The players may not be as committed as A team players and may desire to participate in other sports. You might find each year, as B players develop, the team loses their top players to the A team or even to teams outside of ATSC. When a team continues to lose their top players over the years, they tend to have difficulty progressing beyond the lower divisions of WAGS and NCSL. You might have to work harder to find players or even a coach willing to develop a team with players who may be less skilled.

The Arlington Alliance continually competed in Division 4 or 5 of NCSL. They would have a good season in Division 4 – move up to Division 3, but then lose top players, and drop back down. The Alliance supported promotion of their better players to the A team, even though it often came at great cost to the team and at the

most inconvenient times.

One season the team dropped to Division 5, however, by the time the fall season rolled around so many teams in the upper divisions had folded or merged, the team was placed back into Div. 3. These were the character building years, and sometimes I think the team survived on pure moxie and determination. The Alliance kept plugging away, worked together and competed in NCSL Division Two Spring 2006 and earned the right to stay in there for Fall 2006. This is quite an accomplishment on the part of the coach who refused to give up on those scrappy players and the scrappy players who continued to believe in themselves and gosh darn’ it, they had fun while doin’ it! The parents remained optimistic (although it wasn’t always pretty soccer), continued to go to the games, cheer the players on, and yes, pay the dues each season.

Well – patience will be rewarded. As players mature and move away from soccer to other activities, the travel soccer competition decreases, with fewer teams competing in WAGS and NCSL. The kids that stick with soccer, play in middle school and on their high school teams, will be rewarded with opportunities to play travel soccer in division one or two. Many B team players don’t suffer from “soccer burn out” like



their A team counterparts who trained extensively during the younger years. Be patient, continue to support and encourage your coach, team and players, and stick with it. The relationships built on and off the field over these last seven years between our “B” team players are so strong, that few of the core players have any desire to change to another team.

There is nothing wrong with Being B. The rewards & glory may not come as early or frequently as you hope, but be patient and stay committed. Your players will continue to gain skills and hopefully, become lifelong lovers of fitness, and after all, isn’t that the ultimate goal?

Kim Beals

ATSC News

Club Council Meeting

The semi-annual Club council meeting will be scheduled the third week of March 2007 at 7:15pm in the Multipurpose Room of the Langston-Brown Community Center at 2121 Culpeper Street (between Mc Donald's and Heidelberg Bakery). The Council, composed of each team's coach and manager, meets twice a year to review the Club's activities and prepare for the upcoming season. Major changes in policy must come before this body for ratification. It's also an opportunity for the representative of our 48 teams to hear league reports, ask questions and become better informed about the Club's direction. Pursuant to our constitution, we will be electing a President, league representatives for NCSL, WAGS and ODSL. We will also evaluate the March ATSC tournament and prepare for our upcoming spring tryouts. Please be sure your team is represented at this meeting.



Director of Coaching Update

ATSC Residential Camp Summer 2007

ATSC is always looking for new ways to help develop our players and coaches. Over the last couple of years we have added camps and technical clinics for our players. We have been helping our coaches' pay for coaching courses for as long as I have been with the Club. We realize the importance of additional training so that we can help our players reach their playing goals. Until now, the technical direction has been focused on the individual player and how we can improve their technical development.

The Club has decided that the next step is we want to offer a residential team camp. The camp will be held from 7/29/07 – 8/3/07 at Rider University in Lawrenceville, NJ in cooperation with Kevin Long Soccer Academy. Kevin is the head women's varsity coach at Rider. The camp will be designed to improve a team's technical and tactical execution. The goal is to have teams in age groups from rising U12-17 attend the camp. The training would focus on individual team needs and tactical deficiencies. Since this is an ATSC Team Residential Camp, we have control over the curriculum and training focus. This gives every coach the opportunity to send his/her team to a week long camp to prepare for the upcoming fall season. The technical and tactical direction and focus would be determined by the coach and the Director of Coaching and implemented by the camp staff. The staff would

include college coaches from regional universities and professional coaches from ATSC and other Clubs.

Here are some of the advantages of a camp at Rider:

- Bus transportation from North Arlington to and from camp (part of camp fee)
- 8:1 Player to coach ratio
- Nine 120' x 65' fields
- Secure campus
- All facilities on site, no busing
- College recruiting seminar
- Full-time athletic trainers
- Strength Training Education
- Local teams available for scrimmages

There are many more advantages in having this residential camp at Rider and I will be sending out a flyer in the next week. The Club is evolving and committed to providing more and more opportunities for our players, teams, and coaches. This is another example of that commitment.

This camp will also accept individual players and will work those players in with a team that is age-appropriate.

I look forward to having the chance to work with many of the ATSC teams at this camp and hope that the teams in the target age groups determine that this event is a useful one and fun for the players. It will also be a great team building opportunity!

Thanks,
Grant Smith
Director of Coaching, ATSC



ATSC

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The mission of ATSC is to provide Arlington and Falls Church City youth the opportunity to play soccer at the highest level commensurate with their individual ability, potential, and interest. ATSC goals: Provide an attractive soccer environment that nurtures the highest level of competition. • Provide every interested Arlington and Falls Church City child with the opportunity to qualify to play competitive travel soccer. • Develop superior life skills in ATSC participants through team play, sportsmanship, top competition, and hard work. • Develop elite soccer players who have an opportunity for success at the state, regional, and national levels. • Develop strong Arlington teams able to compete effectively at the local, tournament, state, regional, and national levels.

U10 Dynamo Girls Take Silver at MCSA Fall Classic



After winning their qualifying bracket with a perfect record including 11 goals for and 4 against, the Dynamo faced the Vienna Hurricanes in the final. The girls played a great game but were upended 1-0 and brought home a Silver trophy. The team is coached by Chris Smith. Way to go Dynamo!

Arlington Spring Invitational 2007 Tournament

Arlington Travel Soccer Club (ATSC), a member of the Arlington Soccer Association, in cooperation with the Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (DPRCR) hosts an annual boys and girls travel soccer tournament in March.

The tournament will utilize 8 synthetic grass fields located in Arlington and nearby Falls Church VA. Exclusive use of these fields will allow the competition to take place in the event of rain or wet ground conditions.

Competition Dates:

- Boys U10-15, March 10-11, 2007
- Girls U10-15, March 17-18, 2007

Visiting teams will be treated to superior fields, outstanding competition, and professionally assigned referees. The Arlington field locations are conveniently located nearby hotels, dining, shopping, and entertainment venues. The attractions of Washington DC are just minutes away.

