

A RADIATION OF EXCELLENCE

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will never depart from it."
-Proverbs 22:6

AKRON INNER-CITY SOCCER CLUB

USSF DIVERSITY PARTNER

2019 NEWSLETTER CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!

This newsletter is another vehicle that is being used to communicate and inform the community, individuals, and our contributing foundations on how this program has made an impact in the lives of our children. There have been tremendous investment made by volunteer coaches, parents and our sponsors helping to enrich the lives of the children of Akron.

Once again, the AICSC 2018 Year Round Youth Development/After School Soccer Program for Akron's children was a great success!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Notes from Coach Dele	2
Philips Hootman Article	2
2018 Summer Soccer Camp & Book Club.....	3
8th Annual Akron Utility Soccer Tournament ...	5
2018 Spring & Fall Teams Standings.....	6
Special thanks to AICSC Supporters.....	17
Coaches & Special Recognition.....	18



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Akron Inner City Soccer club celebrates it's 20th anniversary and we are grateful. I say thank you Lord! The journey started in 1999 with a mission to make soccer available and affordable to the families of Akron. Our goal was also to make it fun while helping the next generation of the soccer players learn the fundamentals of the beautiful game in an adult caring and supervised environment.

The journey has not been easy, but God has provided. We have
(Continued on page 4)

"The journey has not been easy, but God has provided." - Dele Olabisi



HOW THE USA NOT QUALIFYING FOR THE 2018 WORLD CUP TURNED ME INTO A SOCCER DAD

In late summer of 2017 I started to really become interested in the United States Men's National Team and their push to try and qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Up until then I had always been really interested in soccer culture, especially in Europe.

The intense passion of the supporters, the singing in the terraces, the "hooligans" clashing in the streets, and a clean pair of Adidas Sambas. That being said though, I had never really sat down to watch the beautiful game. I've always been a fanatical sports fan, a long suffering Cleveland fan to be specific, but soccer

(Continued on page 8)

2018 SUMMER CAMP & BOOK CLUB

The 11th Annual of four weeks of FREE summer soccer camp was another huge success. As in the past, the camps were held at four different locations around the city in order to eliminate transportation issues for our participants. The parents were always very grateful for the free soccer skills training, T-shirts, and a meal after each camp.

New last year at the camp was the introduction of book club initiative.

With the collaborative effort with the Summit Education Initiative and the Akron Public Library we launched the book club program. Once a week the Akron Public Library staff talked about the importance of reading even just for ten minutes a day. Each participant received a book per week in addition to a book bag. We received a lot of positive feedback so hope to bring it back to the 2019 summer camp.



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 2)

been blessed with hundreds of Akron youth who have participated in the soccer program. The program continues to pay it forward as we see our players participate on middle and high school soccer teams in the Akron Public Schools and the United States Olympic Development Program (ODP). Some of our participants have received scholarships at the university level. From its inception the program has been supported by coaches who have given of their time and talents to make this program enjoyable and having a positive influence on our children.

The parents and the volunteers have been very amazing. We have received guidance from our past and current board members for which we are grateful. Thanks to Akron area clubs and the Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association (GAASA) for their support. Thanks to the City of Akron Parks and Recreation for making fields available for our program. Individuals and area foundations have been generous with their financial support. Without them the soccer program would not have been possible. Finally, I would like to thank my family and friends for over 20 years of support!!

Save the date, Saturday, July 27 as we celebrate 20 years!!

Join us as we celebrate from 1:00pm—5:00pm at the Copley Road Soccer Complex in Akron, Ohio.

- Dele Olabisi

President



4

8TH ANNUAL AKRON UNITY SOCCER TOURNAMENT

The 8th Annual Akron Unity Soccer Tournament was a huge success. Thanks to the area clubs/ teams, referees, coaches, players, parents and our sponsors for making it possible.

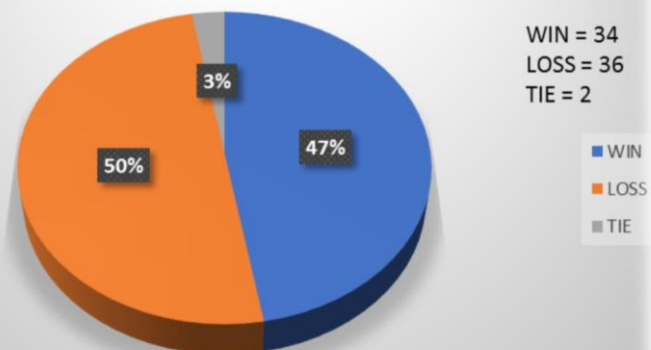
Please visit our Facebook Page at Akron Inner City Soccer Club/Facebook to watch our very first short video of the tournament. We give Thanks to God for making it bigger and be1er every year.



2018 SPRING & FALL TEAM STANDINGS

We registered nine teams in the Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association (GAASA) spring competitive games. Two of our teams were division champions and a total of four teams made it to the playoffs. I say congratulations to the players, coaches and parents for their hard work. Many thanks to the Individuals and area foundations for their generous support.

2018 SPRING GAME STATISTICS

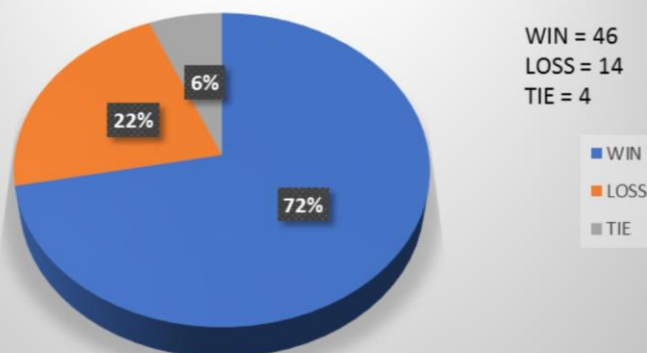


Team	W	L	T	Playoffs
B9C4 Akron Inner City Cobras	6	1	1	Yes
G9C2 Akron Inner City Volcanoes	2	6	0	No
B0C3 Akron Inner City Pythons	3	5	0	No
G0C1 Akron Inner City Eagles	1	7	0	No
B1C1 Akron Inner City Tsunami	3	4	1	Yes
G1C1 Akron Inner City Hurricanes	2	6	0	No
B3C1 Akron Inner City Flames	7	1	0	Yes
G3C1 Akron Inner City Avalanche	3	5	0	No
B5A1 Aron Inner City Tigers	7	1	0	Yes

2018 SPRING & FALL TEAM STANDINGS

We set a new season record for sending all our teams to the playoffs. Four out of the eight teams were the division

2018 FALL GAME STATISTICS



champions another record for the club. Congratulations to the players, coaches and parents. Many thanks to the Individuals and area foundations for their generous support of our program. The year-round youth development/after school soccer program could and would not have been possible with you.

Team	W	L	T	Playoffs
B9C6 Akron Inner City Fire	6	2	0	Yes
B9C2 Akron Inner City Cobras	6	0	2	Yes
G9N2 Akron Inner City Volcanoes	7	1	0	Yes
B0C3 Akron Inner City Pythons	8	0	0	Yes
G1C3 Akron Inner City Hurricanes	4	3	1	Yes
B2C1 Akron Inner City Tsunami	5	2	1	Yes
G3C1 Akron Inner City Avalanche	3	5	1	Yes
B4C2 Akron Inner City Flames	7	1	0	Yes

HOW THE USA NOT QUALIFYING FOR THE 2018 WORLD CUP TURNED ME INTO A SOCCER DAD

(Continued from page 2)

never really popped up on my radar in my younger years when I was falling in love with sports.

My high school didn't even have a soccer team until my senior year. It wasn't until I met my wife that I started to think more about soccer. She played soccer in high school, a proud Kenmore Cardinal. Don't make jokes about Kenmore around her, I'm warning you she will get mad! We would be flipping through the channels and if soccer was on, she seemed sincerely interested. I would ask her questions about the rules and she would try to explain to me what was going on and it was kind of a cool way to hang out with each other.

What's all this have to do with Akron Inner City Soccer Club you ask? Stay with me...I'm getting there. So like I said, it was summer 2017 and I had decided I was going to get serious about soccer. I was sick of the Browns dysfunction, and my heart was still broken from the 2016 World Series. I planned to follow the journey of the US Men's National Team to the World Cup, and then totally soak up every World Cup match that I could. There was just one problem with my plan...Trinidad and Tobago. A small Caribbean Island nation with the population of Dallas, Texas had eliminated the "mighty" USA from qualifying for the World Cup. It was the first time since 1986 that the US did not qualify, I was shocked. Before that night the only time I had ever even heard of Trinidad and Tobago was from Phife Dawg from A Tribe Called Quest (R.I.P). How could this happen I wondered. With all the wealth and resources our country has, why were we so far behind when it came to soccer? We produce elite talent in Football, Baseball, Basketball, etc.. why not soccer? I started reading Twitter takes on what was wrong with soccer in America...It led me down a rabbit hole of blog postings and articles about this subject.

There were several reasons people cited for soccer in the USA not keeping up with the rest of the globe, but one reason in particular kept popping up. Soccer isn't available to a lot of our nation's young people. Some parents are able to spend thousands of dollars a year on soccer clubs that propel their children to the sport's highest levels, while thousands of gifted athletes in working class or lower income neighborhoods get left behind. The game has thrived in wealthy communities, but the cost has become outrageous, pricing out a lot of talented players. At some point during my internet research session that night I stumbled upon the website for Akron Inner City Soccer Club. This seemed like the answer! This club was successfully making soccer accessible to all kids and it's right here in my own back yard! I was so excited about what I read and immediately knew that I wanted to get involved somehow. I knew I couldn't coach, I mean, I had just started playing FIFA on PlayStation and I was getting pretty good at it, but not quite ready to coach a team to glory. I quickly started composing an email to the address on the website thinking that I could volunteer to mow the grass on the field or something haha. I didn't really expect to hear back from

HOW THE USA NOT QUALIFYING FOR THE 2018 WORLD CUP TURNED ME INTO A SOCCER DAD

anybody. Little did I know less than a week later I would be sitting in a McDonalds across the table from Dele Olabisi.

Chances are if you are reading this, then you probably know Dele. He's one of those rare people that can make you feel like a friend in the first 5 minutes of talking to him. He told me about the club and how it came to be. He told me how his son wanted to play soccer but at the time there really wasn't a place for him to play, so Dele started his own soccer club. I watched him interact with the kids that were with him that day, younger players from one of the Akron Inner City teams, and it was obvious that he truly loved and cared about what he was doing.

After I parted ways with Dele that day I knew I wanted to be a part of what he was doing to help out any way I could no matter how small or insignificant. In the following weeks I tried to hang around the games as much as possible to cheer on the kids and see how I could help. I started making my wife come with me too because I figured I would seem less creepy if I had my wife with me haha. It didn't take long for her to fall in love with what was going on. Dele informed Andrea and I that we would be "soccer mom/dad" for one of the teams, we were like "OK Cool!". Our first mission!

When the season started back up in Spring of 2018 we were assigned to be soccer parents for the U15 boys Akron Inner City Tigers! Andrea and I had so much fun going and watching these boys play soccer. They were incredible. By then I was pretty much full blown obsessed with soccer and I had picked a favorite Premier League team and a favorite MLS team, but the Tigers were by far my favorite team. They had respect for the game, but they had fun. They held each other accountable, but they treated each other like brothers. And they played circles around just about every team they encountered. After the games Andrea and I would find ourselves talking about the games and the kids. We really started feeling a connection to that team. It was the highlight of our week to go to those games. It brought us so much joy and I could never thank Dele enough for allowing us to be part of that. I could never thank the parents enough for allowing us to be a teeny tiny part of their kids lives. And if any of the coaches or players from that team happen to read this, thank you for being outstanding young men and a perfect example of what I think Dele was hoping to build when he started this club. When Dele asked me to write something for the newsletter, I wasn't sure exactly what he had in mind. I hope I didn't totally miss the mark. I feel like I talked a lot about myself, but I just really wanted you all to know where I am coming from because I haven't had a chance to talk to a lot of you...and I'm sure some of you were thinking "who the heck is this dude?" And I also wanted a chance to tell Dele that besides the immeasurable impact he has on the lives of these kids and the good he is doing in his community, he has also had a positive impact on my life.

HOW THE USA NOT QUALIFYING FOR THE 2018 WORLD CUP TURNED ME INTO A SOCCER DAD

Being involved with Akron Inner City has given me something positive to be involved in. I've met so many good people, and I've been exposed to different cultures. It's helped me get out of my bubble and given me a new perspective on things. And of course, I've fallen in love with this beautiful game. I guess I will wrap this up because I am going to wake up at the crack of dawn on a Saturday to watch some Premier League soccer, Go Wolverhampton! But in closing I would just like to say that I hope I can get to know more of you this upcoming season. Andrea and I are really looking forward to getting back out there and supporting the teams.















Special thanks to AICSC Supporters

Sponsors

Akron Community Foundation

Anonymous Donor

Charles e & Mable M. Richie Memorial Fdn.

Glen L. Stephens

Glenn R. & Alice V. Boggess Memorial Fdn.

FirstEnergy Foundation Henry V. & Frances
W. Christenson Fdn.

Laura R. & Lucian Q. Moffi1 Memorial Fdn.

COACHES CORNER

GAASA TEAMS

Lloyd L. & Louise Smith Memorial Fdn.

Musson, R.C. & Katharine M. Charitable Fdn.

PPG Industries GIVE Foundation

PPG Industries Cleveland, Ohio

Ronald McDonald House Charities

The Sister McFawn Fdn.

The Welty Family Foundation

United Way of Summit County

Vernon Odom Fund of the Akron Community Fdn

W. Paul & Thora J. Mills Fdn.

SAF Inc.

In-Kind Supporters

Akron Public Schools

CTI Web Services.

First Choice Bookkeeping Service

Graffiti Print Shop

N.E.O. Soccer Club Parma, Ohio



Summit County
Department of
Job &

Family Services

The Akron Urban
League

The City of

Akron Parks & Recreation

The House of The Lord Church

Angelica Reeves, United States

Amy Gilmore, United States



Boo Lee, Thailand

Candice Al-Amin, United States

Chidozie Martins, Nigeria

Chris Okoh, Nigeria David Hooks,
United States

Dele Olabisi, Nigeria

Edric Applewhite, Trinidad & Tobago

Emmanuel Sese, Liberia

Ike Akpan, Nigeria

Lamont Jones, United States

Seleke Korleh, Liberia

Paul Okonkwo, Nigeria

Bate Agbor-Baiyee, Cameroon

Wilmont Sowa, Sierra

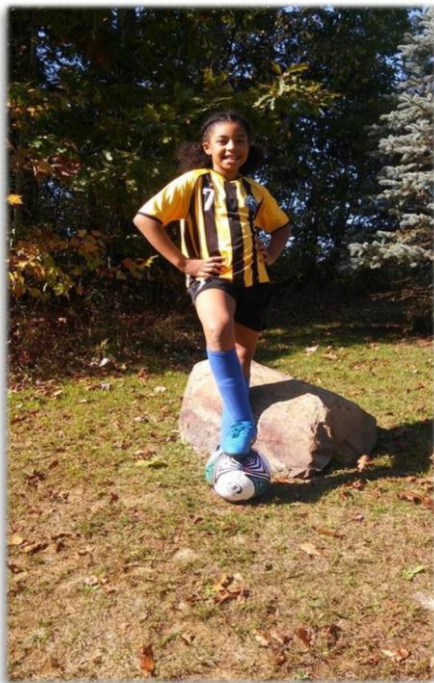
Leone Leo Fof, Liberia

Zachary Martin, United States

IN HOUSE TEAMS

Andrea Allen, Jamaica

Kashmere Greer, United States



Tunde Olabisi,
United States

"Soccer is my passion. Thank you Akron Inner City Soccer (Coach Dele) for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to be apart of a great team "The Hurricanes" . Soccer helped build



my self-esteem to be the dedicated team player that I am today. -Bailey
Prince
11 yrs. old

Special Recognition

Board Members

Lawrence L. Williams

Joni Cooper

Tonya Okolo

Patricia A. Kennard

David Wallace

Webmaster

Olaronke Olabisi

Melissa Reahm

Editor

Angelica Reeves

Newsletter Layout &
Design

Angelica Reeves

*Thank
You*



Boys & Girls

Ages 5-14 years old

----- REGISTRATION FORM: DETACH AND MAIL IN-----

Akron Inner City Soccer Club

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

_____ Girl _____ Boy

AGE _____ DOB _____/_____/_____

Shirt Size (Children's Sizes) S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

Registration Fee: \$35

Free 8 Week Winter Indoor Footskills Free

4 Week Summer Camp

Detach

and Mail.

Contact.

Akron Inner City Soccer Club

330.524.3776

Attn: Coach Dele Olabisi

akroninnercitysc@gmail.com

865 Roslyn Avenue

www.inner-citysoccer.org

Akron, OH 44320