

Akron Inner-City Soccer Club

NEWSLETTER

2023

A photograph of three young children playing soccer on a grassy field. The child on the left is wearing a blue jersey with orange sleeves and is looking down at a yellow and black soccer ball. The child in the middle is wearing a yellow jersey with green sleeves and is also looking down. The child on the right is wearing a green jersey with black sleeves and is looking towards the left. A soccer goal is visible in the background.

OUR NEW FRIENDS
from India
Pg. 4

**'INNER CITY SOCCERS MISSION OF
INCLUSIVITY, ACCESSIBILITY TO FIND
HOME IN SHERBONDY HILL**

PARENTS CORNER
with Wilmot Sowa
Pg. 8-9

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NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As I reflect on 2022, one thing that I want to say is Thank You to the players, parents, volunteer coaches, sponsors, and The God Almighty for continually making the year-round youth development/after school soccer program possible to over five hundred Akron inner-city youth.

We are in our 24th year of offering an unparalleled soccer experience and development opportunities to the youth in Akron. Our partnership with Summit Education Initiative (SEI) allows us to ensure our players not only have a safe place but remain on the path to high school graduation and college or career readiness.

I look forward to more wonderful things in 2023. Our new practice field is currently under construction at Lane Field and is scheduled to be complete this year.

Finally, if you missed it, I invite you to read and share our feature article in the Akron Beacon Journal. You will find it on our website under the News tab and also included in this issue of our newsletter.

COACH – Dele Olabisi



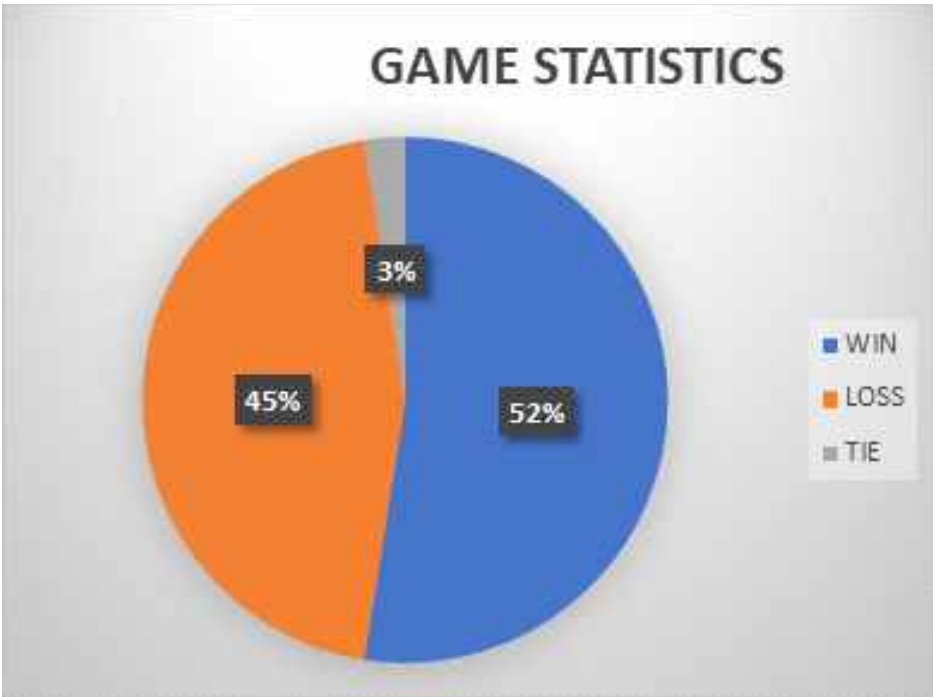
FROM GAASA TO OSTSL



AICSC has been a member of the Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association (GAASA) for the past twenty-two years. Last year, GAASA merged with the Ohio Travel Soccer League (OTSL), further connecting the soccer community in Ohio. AICSC joined OTSL in Fall 2022 and closed the season with a strong collective team record.

FALL SEASON GAME RESULTS WITH THE NEW LEAGUE OTSL

SN	AGE GROUP	WIN	LOSS	TIE	PLACEMENT
1	U9-Boys	1	7	0	5th of 6 teams
2	U10-Boys	3	5	0	8th of 12 teams
3	U10-Girls	6	2	0	2nd of 6 teams
4	U11-Boys	4	4	0	3rd of 6 teams
5	U13-Boys	7	0	1	1st of 5 teams



NEW FRIENDS FROM INDIA



In 2022 we had the opportunity to welcome four international delegates from India. The program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program, has the objective to “...introduce Indian leaders of professional and amateur sports groups to U.S. models of using sports and fitness programs to help build communities and address a local population's needs, especially in combating substance abuse, violence intervention prevention and to discuss the most creative practices in use in the United States for locating, funding, and managing sports programs in order to foster a positive sports and fitness culture”.

This exchange was facilitated by Global Ties Akron and their president Michelle Wilson. Our guests included Mr. Bhuvnesh GAHLOT Head Coach, Dribble Academy Foundation, Mr. Manish KUMAR Team Leader, Society for Promotion of Youth & Masses, Mr. Aman SHARMA Sports Program Manager, Tata Trusts and Mr. Sandeep SINGH Co-Founder and Secretary, Youth Football Club. We enjoyed a meaningful exchange that included a discussion about our programs' impact and a soccer practice of which players, parents and coaches all participated.

Soccer is a global sport, and we always welcome the opportunity to share and experience the global power of the game. In addition to Global Ties Akron, this exchange was made possible by Jerry and Daniel Welty from The Welty Family Foundation, who also joined us on the sidelines as we welcomed our new friends.



Jerry and Daniel Welty

2022 SUMMER CAMP



Our 15th Annual FREE 4-week summer camp was a huge success. As always, we received calls and registration forms as early as January for the camp. The camp was held at four different sites, Hardesty Park, Mason Park, Jennings Middle School, and Summit Lake to decrease barriers of entry for all of our participants across different neighborhoods to participate and experience the Beautiful game.

The ongoing success of our summer camp is possible with generous help from community coaches, leaders, volunteers and sponsors. Special thanks to Melvin Blake from the City of Akron Parks and Recreation for making the fields available. As well as Roberts Dowell from El-Davis community center and Becky Fox from the Akron Public Schools summer meals program for making nutritious meals available throughout the four weeks of the camp. We would also like to thank Kathleen Mockeesturm and Carrier Burrier from the Akron Public Library and Chuck Bell and his wife from Children and Books (CAB) for coming out to the camp and distributing free books to the participants.



We look forward to continuing to offer the summer camp and ensuring our participants have access to transportation, meals and reading materials during the summer months when access to these resources is limited and learning loss is high due to summer recess.

PHOTO GALLERY



PHOTO GALLERY



PARENTS CORNER WITH WILMOT SOWA



My name is Wilmot A. Sowa, originally from Sierra Leone and I've been a parent and coach at Akron Inner City Soccer Club (AICSC) since the Summer of 2016. Coach Dele, the president of the club, opened his doors to me when I was mostly in need of practicum experience towards my bachelor's degree in Exercise Science/Coaching. He made me feel right at home from the very first day I spoke with him. I have no doubt that his great personality, love for the game of soccer and care for the Akron community, led to the twenty plus formidable years of AICSC thriving existence, a home to numerous families and hundreds of kids. With the help of sponsors, partners, parents, coaches like myself, AICSC has provided fundamental soccer skills, academic support, and in general, contributed significantly to the development of many kids that have passed through it. This non-profit organization has undoubtedly been an integral part of our community and I am personally grateful. I have grown both as a parent and a coach during my six plus years coaching with the club. The environment is so welcoming such that coaches, who are usually volunteers, get the opportunity to learn from other coaches, parents, and from resources provided by the club. In return, the coaches use these knowledge and skills to basically prepare the youths for this great journey of life, by teaching, coaching, advising, and guiding them every step of the way. Amazingly, as parents/coaches, we sometimes find the experience to be mutual, learning a thing or two ourselves from interacting with these kids. I can never forget the day one of the boys walked up to me after a game we just won and congratulated me on our win but also reminded me that he has been a defender since the league started five weeks ago. The truth is, I became comfortable with the fact that he played defense so well and forgot that I've

promised to have each player learn to play at least two positions. That experience reminded me to be a man of my word, regardless of the circumstances. The very next game, I had him play striker and he was even better. Today, the club has produced a record number of intelligent, hardworking, student-athletes all across our Akron Public Schools (APS) and beyond. I'm proud to say that both of my sons, Dileh (11 years old) and Domah (5 years old) are in the program. Dileh, and many of his U13 teammates, who've been with the club since they were only five years old, are humbly walking this blueprint of success as they (under my coaching and that of my peers) play exceptional soccer, setting a good standard for the much younger ones. Just this 2022/2023 season alone they went undefeated in the Ohio Travel Soccer League (OTSL) hence becoming the champions and at the same time becoming champions at the Mike Good Memorial Tournament (see photos). Their love and energy for the game is precious; thanks to a successful and affordable program like AICSC which make such platform available.



Mike Good Memorial Tournament Champions 2021. Wilmot and Dileh.

PARENTS CORNER WITH WILMOT SOWA



A ICSC gives back to the community by consistently providing the platform on which the kids can grow into responsible, healthy adults, for little or no cost to the families. Unlike other soccer programs, the club has a reputation for not only charging the bare minimum fees but also waiving it in some instances. It also provides educational materials like books, bags, pencils, etc., along side nourishable meals at its annual summer camp, developing the kids both physically and academically. Its all-year round soccer schedule contributes significantly to the fight against drop out, teenage pregnancy, and crime rates in the community by getting the kids engaged early and off the streets. I have no doubt that AICSC is grooming leaders for the future; great men and women that will help make the world a better place. Many parents, coaches, like myself, are very grateful for the presence of AICSC in our community and quite excited about the future. With our new soccer facility set to be completed and available for use this year, we can't wait to see the additional growth it brings to not just the club but the Akron community in general.



U13 Boys receiving their championship t-shirts after defeating Northwest in the Finals of Mike Good Memorial Tournament 2022.



Mike Good Memorial Tournament Champions 2022 celebrating.

IN-KIND DONATION



Pablo Moreira Assistance Coach Columbus Crew
a Major League Soccer (MLS) Team.



**THE GIFTS TOUCHED OUR HEARTS MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.
THANK YOU FOR KINDNESS TOWARD AKRON INNER CITY SOCCER CLUB.
THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE.**

TOURNAMENTS PARTICIPATED IN 2022



COACHES AND RECOGNITION



Todd Ingraham
Dashan Antonio
CaraMia Bentley
Whendi Fubler
Predrag James Tolmachev



Wilmot Sowa



Andy Boateng



Paul Okonkwo
Amina Sese
Chris Okok
Ike Akpan

Emmanuel Sese
Baridor Bodom
Oladele Olabisi
Martins Chidozie



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We recognize and appreciate Zachary Iler (iler) a junior at Revere High School for his contribution to the summer camp of 2022.

SPECIAL THANKS TO AICSC SUPPORTERS



In-kind Donation

Akron Community Foundation
Charles E. & Mable M. Richie Memorial Fdn.
Glenn R. & Alice V. Boggess Memorial Fdn.
Henry V. & Frances W. Christenson Fdn.
Laura R. & Lucian Q. Moffitt Memorial Fdn.
Musson, R.C. & Katharine M. Charitable Fdn.
SAF Inc.
The Sister McFawn Fdn.
The Welty Family Foundation
United Way of Summit County
Vernon Odom Fund of the Akron Community Fdn.
David & Brandy Kroskey Family Fdn.
Mr. Martin P Houser Fund of the Akron Community Foundation
Knights of Columbus Council 14551
Mark and Joleen Sitko - Uniontown, Ohio
Bardoulas Richard L. - Copley, Ohio
Frank and Pat Sattler - Copley, Ohio

Akron Public Schools
CTI Web Services.
First Choice Bookkeeping Service
Graffiti Print Shop
Pablo Moreira Columbus Crew
The City of Akron Parks & Recreation
The House of The Lord Church



2023 Program Timeline



WINTER PROGRAM		SPRING PROGRAM		SUMMER PROGRAM		FALL PROGRAM	
WINTER STARTS Monday 1/16/2023		SPRING PRACTICE STARTS Monday 3/20/2023		SUMMER CAMP STARTS Monday 6/19/2023		FALL PRACTICE STARTS Monday 7/17/2023	
DECLARE SPRING TEAMS Saturday 2/18/2023		SPRING GAMES START Sunday 4/16/2023		DECLARE FALL TEAMS Tuesday 6/20/2023		FALL GAMES START Sunday 8/13/2023	
WINTER ENDS Saturday 3/18/2023		SPRING GAMES END Sunday 6/11/2023		SUMMER CAMP ENDS Friday 7/14/2023		FALL GAMES END Sunday 10/22/2023	
10th ANNUAL AKRON UNITY TOURNAMENT – Saturday 9/2/2023 (Labour Day Weekend)							



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