

AKRON INNER-CITY SOCCER CLUB

NEWSLETTER

2024



OUR NIGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
AKRON MEN'S SOCCER GAME.

INNER-CITYSOCCER.ORG

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Praise God as Akron Inner City Soccer Club enters its twenty-fifth year!! The soccer program continues to impact positively the lives of the youth in the city of Akron.

Some of the benefits include better school performance, evidenced by improved attendance and grades as stated by Summit Education Initiative (SEI). Another benefit is better physical and mental health. Many former players are now attending colleges or on a career path. Some have returned to the program as coaches or referees generating a moderate income. The program continues to offer a safe place in the community for our youth and it serves as a deterrent from hanging out in the streets.

The 2023 Program started with a record number of participants at the free indoor foot skills training at The House of the Lord gym. The fall and spring rosters were quickly filled with players and the free summer camp was at capacity.

Thanks to the City of Akron, in July 2023, the club finally was able to have a permanent soccer field to hold practices. Prior to the newly constructed Lane Soccer Field, soccer practice was held at city park fields.

The importance of having a soccer field is game changing. The players practice well on regulation fields. These accomplishments could not have been possible without the hard work of players, parents, soccer moms and dads, volunteer coaches, Pastor Gregory Harrison, the city of Akron. We are grateful for the generous financial support of individuals, area foundations, and Almighty God.

I look forward to the year 2024 season with excitement and optimism. I believe the best is yet to come. God has been faithful, and we are thankful.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A CHANGE AND A DIFFERENCE



A FRIEND FROM MOROCCO, AFRICA.

Every year we participate in the International Visitor Leadership Program. The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVPL) is the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program.

Local Arrangements by Global Ties Akron and Michelle Wilson Director.

The visitors are often curious in finding out more about how we use our year-round youth development/after school soccer program as a platform to combat guns, gangs, drugs alcohol, improved grades for the youth that we serve.

On the evening Thursday, August 24, 2023, we host Mr. Mr. Mohamed Amine Zariat from Morocco at our newly constructed practice field at Lane Field. "Mr. Mohamed Amine Zariat is the founder and president of chez TIBU Basketball Academy in Morocco.

A social entrepreneur in the field of education and inclusion of young people and women through sport and former international basketball player. He has a vision to become the locomotive of development through sport in Africa by 2030". He loves the sport of soccer of course.

What a pleasure and a great opportunity to meet such a visionary with a heart of love for the youth. The cultural exchange with our players, coaches and parents was great. While at the field, he met Rashad Amed a nine-year-old boy with roots in Morocco.

Mr. Mohamed anticipates bringing a team from Morocco to participate in our tournament in 2024 and has invited our teams to visit his country and take part in their tournament in 2025. The Beautiful Game is truly a World Sport.

We have enjoyed these great unforgettable moments with The International Visiting Leadership Program for about five years. I called it, a window to the world.





Rene Molenaar

Akron Inner City Soccer means a lot to me. I enrolled my kids hoping they'd learn communication, sportsmanship, and make new friends, especially given how Covid complicated these experiences in their formative years.

We came to Akron Inner City Soccer because they are a strong, competitive club. Ever seen an 8-year-old attempt a goal-scoring bicycle kick? Come to practice and you might. These kids are amazing, and they're genuinely having fun.

The coaches demonstrate a blend of diverse styles and perspectives. But it's the diversity within the team that truly enriches our kids' experiences. Last spring, a parent from another team called us a "Children's World Cup". On that U9 team, we had 5 spoken languages but one common language: soccer. Our program is a mix of kids from different neighborhoods, schools, and backgrounds, but we all are brought

together by soccer.

The commitment of the program to make soccer accessible is impressive. The off-season foot skills training sessions and week-long summer camps at no cost to families is an investment in the love for soccer and the children in our community.

It works. Our team feels like a family, both on and off the field. At recent birthday and holiday parties, the kids eagerly asked when the next session would start so they could play again.

As a parent, I'm proud to be part of something unique. Akron Inner City Soccer is about more than just a sport; it's about teamwork, trust, and friendship. The impact goes beyond the field, shaping our future leaders. Our program is a true nurturing ground for champions.

Sincerely, Rene
Langdon & Ivar's Mom
Rene T. Molenaar, Ph.D. Sr. Instructional Designer, The University of Akron Board Member, Akron Public Schools





Thanks Mr Dele

We are appreciate for all your service and another special thanks for all coaches Everything was perfect, actually this year was our first time we enrolled my kids they are so excited and grateful for all your programs. **Keyan Daneshmand**

Dele,

Just wanted to thank you for allowing us to participate in your summer camp. Angel Kidd had never played soccer until the camp. She is now starting on Green High School's JV team and getting significant time on varsity.

Pastor Gregory Harrison

Soccer skills - Mason has learned soccer and improved so much! He had never touched a soccer ball before January of this year and he scored 2 goals in games during the fall season.

No cost/low-cost opportunities - He did foot skills, spring season, summer camp, and then fall season. This program offers so many great opportunities to kids trying to learn soccer at either no cost or a very low cost compared to other programs.

Diversity and friendship - We love the diversity of the team! He's also made great friends in the program.

Mandarin Ross





Our teams compared in the Ohio Travel Soccer League (OHTSL)

2023 SPRING RESULTS

	WIN	TIES	LOSSES	STANDINGS
1. U9-BOYS – TEAM	7	0	1	2ND. OF 10 TEAMS
2. U9-GIRLS - TEAM	2	0	6	8TH. OF 10 TEAMS
3. U9 -BOYS - TEAM	6	0	2	2ND. OF 10 TEAMS
4. U10-GIRLS -TEAM	4	0	4	6TH. OF 8 TEAMS
5. U11-BOYS – TEAM	8	0	0	1ST. OF 7 TEAMS Division Champions
6. U13-BOYS – TEAM	4	0	4	3RD. OF 8 TEAMS
7. U18-BOYS – TEAM	4	0	4	5TH. OF 10 TEAMS
TOTAL	35	0	21	

2023 FALL RESULTS

	WIN	TIES	LOSSES	STANDINGS
1. U9-BOYS	4	1	3	4TH. OF 7 TEAMS
2. U9-GIRLS	2	0	6	6TH. OF 8 TEAMS
3. U10-BOYS South	2	2	4	6TH. OF 9 TEAMS
4. U10-BOYS Southwest	7	1	0	2ND. OF 10 TEAMS
5. U11-BOYS	7	1	0	1ST. OF 10 TEAMS Division Champions
6. U11-GIRLS	4	0	4	6TH. OF 11 TEAMS
7. U12 BOYS	5	1	2	2ND. OF 6 TEAMS
8. U14-BOYS	5	0	3	4TH. OF 12 TEAMS
TOTAL	36	6	22	

SUMMER CAMP



The 16th. Annual Summer Camp served 400 hundred youth. The four-week FREE camp has been a financial relief for many parents looking for low cost or no cost safe activities for their children during the summer. All camp participants receive a soccer ball and a camp T-shirt. They also receive books twice a week from the Summit County Library and Children and Books (CAB), which are theirs to keep. The books are used to encourage reading over the summer. Meals are provided by the City of Akron.



INAUGURAL AKRON CITY FESTIVAL CELEBRATING OUR FUTURE LEADERS



Gland for our participation in this historical parade and festival in downtown Akron. Our members were trail and enjoyed the atmosphere of 35 organizations with over a thousand participants that walked in downtown Akron.

I would like to congratulate the City of Akron and especially Mr. Deneco Buckley-Knight and his crew on a successful festival.





We participated in these tournaments in 2023.

1. Great Lakes Erie Fall Challenge in Erie, Ohio
2. Pre-Elite Club National League in Willoughby, Ohio
3. 2023 Season Finale in Lodi, Ohio.
4. 2023 Spooktacular Soccer Tournament in Willoughby, Ohio





Empowering Lives Through Soccer: Imokhai's Inspiring Journey with Akron Inner City Soccer Club



In a heartwarming culmination of the year, Imokhai took center stage as the guest speaker at Akron Inner City Soccer Club's 2023 end-of-the-year banquet award ceremony. The atmosphere was charged with enthusiasm and gratitude as Imokhai shared his poignant story, highlighting the profound impact the soccer program had on shaping his life's journey.

Imokhai's eloquent speech resonated deeply with the audience, underscoring the transformative power of the soccer program. As he spoke, his words painted a vivid picture of how the sport became a catalyst for personal growth and community empowerment.

The Akron Inner City Soccer Club, with its commitment to providing opportunities and fostering a sense of belonging, became the backdrop for Imokhai's journey. He passionately expressed how the soccer program served as more than just a recreational activity; it became a vehicle for self-discovery, resilience, and how he now manages his own law firm in the city of Akron.

As the applause echoed through the banquet hall, Imokhai's words lingered in the hearts of those present—a powerful reminder of the potential for positive change that lies within the simple act of kicking a ball on a soccer field. The Akron Inner City Soccer Club's commitment to nurturing both athletes and individuals was evident, making the evening not just a celebration of achievements but a reaffirmation of the club's vital role in shaping lives.



PICTURES GALLERY



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PICTURES GALLERY



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CARAMIA BENTLEY
DASHAN ANTONIO
ENIEMA AKPAN
IKE AKPAN JR.
JUSTIN CHENAULT
KYLE FLANARY
TODD INGRAHAM
WHENDI FUBLER



AMINA SESE
EMMANUEL SESE
EMEKA OKORO
OLABISI ADESUSI
OBA ENI
SAMSON EHICHIOYA
PAUL OKONKWO
IKE AKPAN
DELE OLABISI



DAVID MORALES



We recognize and appreciate **Alex Vincenti** and **Zachary Iler** from Revere High School for their continued support and contributions to the summer camp program.
Congratulations to the Revere High School Soccer Team and staff for having a great 2023 season with 20-1-2 win-loss-tie and the Ohio State Division 11 runner ups.



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