



Quarterly Newsletter 3

Playing Simple!

Friends, Family and Futbol

Wrap up of 2023



Toca Premier Men's College Team

Off to a great start!

Congratulations to our Mens Toca Premier team (featured on the front cover), our new men's college team on their first ever league season. These guys came together in the Fall of 2023, many of them rejoining each other after many years, most ex-players of Toca youth teams. After an almost undefeated season (one loss and one tie) the team won their division, moving up to Division 2 in the District Sports DC Premier League for the Spring Season. Good luck to the team in 2024!

Congrats to everyone and Coach Christian on a fantastic first season!!!

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Teams in the Spotlight:



Ready, set, SMILE!

This newsletter we are so proud to spotlight our first ever Toca Smiles team, a special training program that brings together neurodiverse players of all ages with Toca buddies from our high school players and coaches. Players learned to dribble and pass the ball while enjoying socializing and time outside at the Toca Complex on Sunday mornings. We wrapped up the season with a special Halloween practice with costumes and special games. Seeing these players every week really made us smile and we hope to welcome them back soon for more training!

We want to take this opportunity to thank all the buddies and most especially Coach Fede Caicedo and Smiles coordinator Carolina Noguera. Your dedication to the smiles program has been key to the program's success! Thank you!



COED Magic: What a streak baby!

Congratulations to our fantastic Adult Coed Team on their incredible winning streak of 20 games undefeated. This is a remarkable accomplishment and with it the team has won both their Summer 2023 and their Fall 2023 seasons. This 7v7 team was formed four years ago in the summer of 2019 and participates in the District Sports League in Washington DC. More importantly the players, the manager and the coach have been enjoying the beautiful game of soccer! Much luck in the next season!!



Winter training is rocking!

This winter training will continue for all Toca teams, with practices alternating between indoor at Norwood and outdoor at Julius West and St Andrews. This is an important opportunity for players to improve ball control, maintain fitness and practice the many skills they learned in the fall season.

As they did last winter, the Minis and the younger boys teams will be playing games against the Japanese and French Saturday Schools. These small sided futsal games will be held some Saturdays and teams will rotate for a chance to participate. These games are a lot of fun so make sure you know the schedule which you can get from your coaches.

There is still time to sign up as the winter season runs to the middle of march. Don't miss out!





Rookie Teams:

Celebrating their first season with Toca: We also want to give a warm welcome to our newest boys teams, the Pirates, for boys Under 9 and the Vikings, for boys Under 10. These teams are off to a great start with Coaches Marco and Niko.

The Stars, for girls Under 10, under the direction of Coaches Tomás and Cristian also enjoyed a very successful first season. These little girls are young but tough, always persevering and playing to win.

We look forward to seeing all these teams continue to grow!



Toca Teams Travel Abroad:

The Bengals First Toca Tour: This past summer the Bengals flew the coup and made their mark in St Andrew's, Scotland! The girls enjoyed traveling together, staying at St Andrew's University, training with Scottish coaches, playing games with international competitors and sightseeing. Among some of the sights they visited, favorites were Edinburgh, Sterling Castle, and the Newcastle United F.C. stadium. They also shared many delicious meals, including authentic fish and chips. Most importantly they honored Coach Sul's wish for them to travel together to St Andrews. We congratulate the Bengals on their first Toca Tour!



The Mystics Fly South: The Mystics, Toca’s 2005 girls' team, traveled to Argentina this past July, stepping foot on Buenos Aires and Cordoba’s fields. The trip was filled with cultural activities and amazing meals, fun adventures to explore Argentina and highly competitive games. The girls began in Cordoba where they were excited to watch a professional game, visit the countryside, and successfully compete against local teams. They then ventured to Buenos Aires, visiting La Plata, where they ate delicious *asado*, toured famous stadiums, and played various games as well. The highlight of this trip was certainly their final game against the U20 Women’s National AFA team at Ezeiza, leaving their “cleatprints” on the soccer complex where Messi and the Argentine national team trains. We congratulate the Mystics on another incredible Toca Tour!

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Toca's First Cross Country Race:

This fall we hosted our first Annual Sugarloaf Mountain View Run, crisscrossing the complex and highlighting the beautiful autumn view. Runners of all ages and abilities enjoyed the challenging course, the fantastic weather and the great sausage sandwiches, churros and many snacks. Congratulations again to the winners, to the organizers especially Dana Vazquez and Francisco Noguera, and especially to all the brave kids that completed the Caterpillar Run! A big thank you to Helen Sanjines and Mireya Borges and their families for the fun balloon arch finish line. Truly this event would have been impossible without all the amazing families and coaches that volunteered their time and expertise, preparing the course, setting up the afterparty, registering runners, handing out race shirts, making sure everyone got meal tickets and cleaning up the Complex after the race. So a heartfelt thank you goes to all the volunteers and all the businesses that made our first race a success for Toca!



Hooray for Sponsors:

We absolutely must thank all the amazing families and businesses that have contributed to making 2023 a great success for Toca!

We have continued to add Complex sponsors and this shows big time. None of the many improvements you see today would have been possible without them. At the top of the list are the many Saturday men's team players who have committed funds to the Complex through their new gold membership program. Thank you! A special thanks goes out to the Plastino family for the kind donation of the installation of a new heating system for the house. This will make the future bathroom, locker room and office very comfortable year round.

We would also like to thank the special businesses that sponsored Toca programs. Toca sponsors included Moya Design Partners, Arsenal Events and GTM Architects. We would especially like to recognize Criosho for their above and beyond generosity during our Toca 5k. Criosho not only donated all the wonderful sandwiches everyone enjoyed but they did it with style. Delicious!!

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Coaches Corner

We are delighted to have added several new coaches in 2023. We are a better program thanks to their commitment and many talents. Among them, we are blessed to have several new Toca parents: Coaches Ezequiel Lopez Murphy, Cristian Astiz, Tomás Silvani, Davide Mare, Michael Bohr and Lenin Balza. Three of our rookie coaches are former Toca players who have come back as adults to share their time and knowledge with our community. This really makes us all very proud. Let's give a warm welcome and support to Coaches Carlos Corte, Juan Carlos Barreiro and Fede Caicedo as they learn the ropes and gain new coaching skills!

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News from the Complex

This year brought many changes to the Toca Complex with construction of Phase 2 finally nearing completion! Our second field has been graded and seeded with some new growth visible before the cold started. The slopes have been stabilized and planted with new grass and irrigation pipes and hydrants were installed with an automatic watering system. Two parking areas were also leveled and one was finished with gravel. We also purchased three picnic tables and finished the area with railroad ties. We are looking forward to the inauguration and naming of the field in 2024!

Among other improvements, the Teqball tables were installed on a new turf court, the chicken coop was removed, graded and finished with gravel and the large metal shed has been emptied, cleaned and a new cement floor was installed allowing it to be used as a multipurpose roofed spaced. Plans are underway to continue with the clean up and repurposing of the house in the next few months. Funds for Sul's Pavillion have almost been secured thanks to a very generous donation from a long time Toca family.

Our long time tenant, Greg, wrapped up his firewood operation and moved away. We wish him much luck at his new home! We are grateful to welcome Gabriel, Saturday player, father-in-law to Coach Juan and grandfather to Coach Fede and our awesome goalie Sofía, who will be pitching in to help us keep an eye on the Complex. Please welcome him when you see him.

We loved seeing everyone enjoy the improvements this fall and we hope that Toca families will continue to enjoy the Complex! If you would like to get involved, have skills to contribute or funds to donate don't hesitate to contact us.

Upcoming

Travel to Denmark Cup No. 1 and Sweden Gothia Cup: The boys high school teams as well as the Mystics are in the process of finalizing the rosters of players that will be traveling to Denmark and Sweden during July to compete in two fantastic international tournaments. This will be the third appearance for Toca in these events with the Huskies placing Second in Cup One in 2019 and the Mystics placing Third in Cup One in 2022. We wish the teams traveling in 2024 much luck!

Be on the lookout for fundraisers to support these team's trips in the next few months as all the funds they raise are intended to reduce the players expenses making the trips more accessible. These trips are only for our youth's enrichment and neither Toca nor any Toca coaches benefit financially from these programs.

Spring Season: We are currently confirming player rosters and registering new players for the Spring Season which will begin with pre-season training mid-March. The Spring Season training schedule and field locations will be announced by the end of february. Check for properly fitting outdoor cleats and uniforms before the first game. Growth spurts happen!

Also, please be aware that most new players come to Toca by word of mouth, so don't be shy. If your team needs players, please spread the word and bring a friend!

Summer Camp: We are very excited to finally be able to offer our families an all day camp this summer at the Toca Complex. This camp will run for two weeks from July 22-26 and July 29-August 2 from 9am to 5pm with aftercare available. We are in the process of arranging bus transportation to and from camp as well as details about optional lunch service. [Registration is now open!](#) Please stay tuned for more information about this amazing opportunity or contact info@tocajuniors.com for any questions.

Looking forward: Copa America USA 2024!



This summer we hope that many Toca families will be able to enjoy watching their favorite national teams in person or on TV as the US will be the host country. We will be planning some game viewing events at the Toca Complex so please let us know if you are interested in helping to organize an event to support your team.



Play Simple

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