

»» SPRING 2024 ««



TOCA NEWSLETTER



Playing Simple!
Friends, Family and Futbol

TEAM SPOTLIGHT!

The Mystics U19 girls celebrating an undefeated season before they head off to college! Congratulations to the team and coaches Christian, Fernando and Mark!



Newsletter Highlights

- **Team Spotlight:** The Toca Mystics (u19 girls) were undefeated and placed first in their last season. After 9 years with the club they're going to college!
- **Rookie Teams:** Toca welcomes two new teams this spring—the Knights (u9) and the Spartans (u10). We are also proud to announce the first Mini's program for girls, following the success of the coed Mini's program!
- **Record-setting Winter Season:** Highlighting the impact of winter training on skill and team preparation for the spring season. Special mentions to the friendly games with the French and Japanese schools and the 150 people who joined us during our community weekend for our 8 elementary school teams.
- **New Field Hockey Program:** Introducing Toca's inaugural field hockey partnership, launched by Coach Luciana and Assistant Coaches Mariu and Guilli, which has quickly grown to a team of 20 girls, aged 6 to 10.
- **Coaches Corner:** Expressing appreciation for the dedication of departing Coaches Hossein Rasouli and Andrew Effross.
- **Gratitude to Sponsors:** Recognizing the invaluable support from the Joseph E. Robert Jr. Charitable Trust and Project Illuminate in their contribution to the Toca Smiles Neurodiverse soccer team. An additional thank you to our new complex development sponsors FPBC Group, SAIC, and La Panetteria Restaurant, welcome to the team!
- **News from the Complex:** Providing updates on the new office and bathrooms, and the progress we've made on our second field.
- **Enhanced Media Coverage:** Thank you to the Mens team for donating new camera equipment! Everyone is loving the new and improved game tapes.
- **Upcoming Events:** Toca Tours in Sweden and Denmark to compete internationally at the Gothia Cup 2024 and Cup No 1, and upcoming Summer Program hosted at our complex in Urbana as well as weekly training in Avenel.



Team Spotlight: Farewell Mystics!



The under-19 EDP Girls Champions Spring 2024

Congratulations and a fond farewell to the Toca Mystics on their last season with the Club! They have just placed 1st in their final season despite playing many games with few or no subs and will be playing the final of the Presidents Cup on June 1st. If possible come out to the game to support them!

We really can't say enough about the Mystics, an amazing team that has been playing together for 9 years and winning a total of 5 EDP league Championships in the last 6 seasons, only placing 2nd in spring of 2023.

They have the discipline to train hard, the determination to fight until the very last ball of the match and the perseverance to come back after every tough game without losing spirit. And yet they are friendly and kind, inclusive and accepting of new players and always generous with each other. At every Toca program and event you will find Mystics volunteering. They are at the heart of the Smiles Buddies and many are now helping as assistant coaches with the Minis Girls. The Mystics are truly role models of great teammates and more importantly great people.

In a few weeks most of these amazing young ladies will graduate from high school and in the Fall they will move on to College and many new, wonderful experiences. We wish them a lot of luck in this new stage of their lives. But first we will root for them as they head to Denmark and Sweden for their last international soccer trip together.

Congrats to all the girls, Coach Fernando, Coach Mark and Coach Christian on creating such a fantastic team!!!

Rookie Teams



Brand

New

TEAMS!



Welcome to the Club: No doubt that thanks to all the fun and great soccer enjoyed by the Pirates and the Vikings, we have received so many new players that we have two new teams this spring. Another U9 Boys team, the Knights and also a second U10 Boys team, the Spartans. These teams are a great opportunity for some of our minis boys to try out a little competition. As the elementary school program continues to grow we are delighted to consolidate some of our dads who have been longtime assistant coaches as head coaches along with Coaches Marco and Niko. Great job Berni, Tomás and Their enthusiasm and dedication to their players are truly admirable. We can't thank them enough!

Another brand new program is our Minis Girls training program, under the direction of Coaches Tomás and Christian also enjoyed a very successful. This group for ages 6-8 is designed to teach the fundamentals and get players ready to rejoin a soccer team. They are always ready for fun and enjoy spending time with assistant coaches from the legendary Mystics: Mimi, Oli, Sofi, Naira and Alexa. Hip hip hooray!!

Record-Setting Winter Season



Winter training for all Toca teams was a great opportunity to stay in shape and build on the ball control and foot skills everyone learned in the fall. With practices alternating between indoor at Norwood and outdoor at Julius West and St Andrews most teams were able to offer a variety of opportunities to suit everyone. Players dedication and effort paid off and we are seeing much stronger teams this spring season as a result. Congratulations to both players and coaches for an outstanding season!

The Minis and the younger boys teams games against the Japanese and French Saturday Schools were “sold out” sensations. Everyone enjoyed these “international friendlies” and we look forward to a continued relationship with these schools!

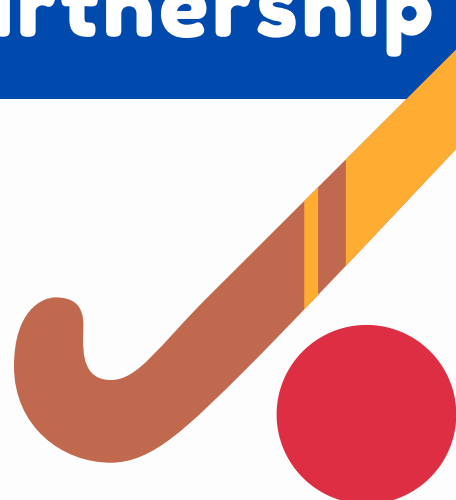
To wrap up the winter season in style our 8 elementary school teams enjoyed a community day at the complex alongside their families where they engaged in friendly scrimmages, savored the splendid spring weather and delicious food, and mingled with over 150 attendees at our complex!

Field Hockey Anyone?



In this newsletter we are so proud to welcome our first ever field hockey training program. This partnership is a long time dream of several of our very own Toca Troupers, who grew up playing field hockey in Argentina. The team has begun training on Saturday afternoons, from 3 to 4pm, under the direction of Coach Luciana and Assistant Coaches Mariu and Guilli. The program has really taken off very quickly and has grown to over 20 girls ages 6 to 10 who are eager to learn the basics of field hockey, have fun and meet new friends!

**A warm
welcome to
a new
partnership**



Coaches Corner

Andrew and the Jaguars



Hossein with the Minis



Farewell wishes to Coach Andrew and Coach Hossein

We are very sad to share that this season our long time coach and dear friend Coach Hossein Rasouli has decided to leave us. While we understand why he made this decision, we will miss him on the field. Coach Hossein was instrumental in creating and growing the Minis program and we are very grateful for this. He brought so much to our programs both as a coach for several generations of youth players and also as a mentor to new coaches and soccer parents. He is a very knowledgeable and kind coach and we hope to find a role for him in the future so he can continue to share his knowledge with us in a new way. We are so grateful for his more than 10 years of dedication to Toca and great coaching! So many children benefited from having Coach Hossein as their first soccer coach.

We are also grateful for Coach Andrew Effross' years of Coaching. Andrew stepped up to the plate to help out the Club at a very difficult time, taking over coaching the Jaguars after Coach Sul's passing, along with Coach Nico. The Jaguars were lucky to have such a dedicated coach who truly devoted many many hours to helping the team improve.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

Toca Smiles players and buddies with their new Project Illuminate merch!



Already our sponsors have out done themselves and 2024 isn't even half over!

None of the many improvements you see today would have been possible without the generosity of so many donors and sponsors but, above all, the incredible work and generosity of Stuart Bassin and Fernando Plastino. And the great advice of our advisory committee: Federico Olivera and Veronica Requena. This season we also welcome three new complex sponsors: La Panetteria, FPBC Group, and SAIC!

This season we must also thank the sponsors of a very special Toca program: our Toca Smiles program for neurodiverse children and teens (pictured above). This program has doubled in size since its first season in the Fall and we know these sponsors will be key in allowing us to give it continuity as well as helping the program to keep growing. We have been able to purchase new equipment for the program as well as new jerseys and lots of motivating and yummy snacks thanks to a very generous grant from Project Illuminate which was obtained by Mystics player, assistant coach and Smiles buddy Alexa Buss. A more recent grant from the Joseph E. Robert Jr. Charitable Trust was used to purchase four new goals, balls and to also to allow us to plan for a training workshop for the coaches and buddies in the near future. This grant will be instrumental in allowing us to provide a better adapted space for the program and to rent an indoor space for the winter. Thank you for making so many Smiles possible!!



News from the Complex

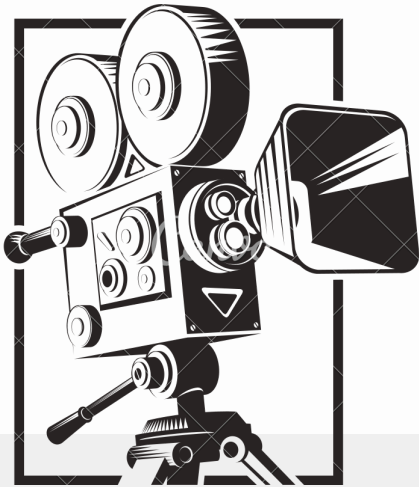


In just these first months of 2024 the Toca Complex has grown by leaps and bounds! After another round of intense work this spring, removing rocks, aerating, fertilizing and reseeding, our second field has really started to green up. We have finally received all the necessary permits to get started on the construction of an irrigation pond, which will be key to keeping both fields in top shape over the summer months. Two parking areas and the area for Sul's Pavilion are also almost completed. Next step is actually building the Pavilion! We are also in the process of getting estimates for a new fence to surround the second field and keep the balls from rolling down the hill. We are so close to the inauguration and naming of the field we can taste it!

Our farm house has also seen some polishing up, with a major clean up, bathrooms and an office for the club. Improvements to the old shed include a new concrete floor, and some beautiful garage doors to let in the light. This will give players a great space for team events and to hide from the wind or rain. A new deck will add much needed areas for picnic tables. We are hoping to paint the exterior of the house and shed before our summer clinic in July.

We are grateful for the contributions of Sunny Sohal and his Cricket Academy to field quality improvements and to the new security cameras you may have noticed. Along those lines, we are also very grateful to Gabriel, Saturday player, father-in-law to Coach Juan and grandfather to Coach Fede and our awesome goalie Sofia, for helping to keep an eye on the Complex as well as everything else he has done to help us from architectural advice to hours of help with maintenance.

Lights, Camera, Action!



**EVERYONE LOVES IT, WATCHING BACK THE GAMES
EVEN HELPS US LEARN FROM OUR MISTAKES AND SEE
OURSELVES FROM A NEW ANGLE!**

This spring we have much photography to be grateful for... Games at the Toca Complex are currently being filmed thanks to a brand new camera set, with a professional tripod and a robotic system that tracks the ball automatically. This camera was donated by the men's over team. You can enjoy watching some of your kids EDP games by checking out our [TOCA TV YouTube channel](#). And the men on the over team can finally settle their disputes over bad calls since they now have it all on film!

Coach Cristian Astiz also invested in a Veo Camera 3 for the Dolphins and has very generously shared the edited film with team parents so they can easily watch the goals and other highlights. This is a fantastic feature of the camera which uses AI to select the clips and of course move the camera to follow the action. If you haven't seen any of these videos make sure to look out for them on Instagram or YouTube. They are amazing quality and a lot of fun for players and parents!

Upcoming !

▶▶▶ THIS SUMMER AT TOCA

TOCA TOURS

Countdown to Denmark’s Cup No. 1 and Sweden’s Gothia Cup: The boys’ high school team as well as the Mystics are in full preparation mode for their trip to Denmark and Sweden this July. This will be the boys first trip abroad so we are very excited for them. New uniforms have been ordered, flights purchased and most importantly everyone is training hard. Make sure you wish these young players a lot of luck when you see them!



TRAINING

Toca will be offering evening training throughout the summer. It is very important for players of all ages to have continuity during the summer even though they will not be playing games. This is a great opportunity to maintain fitness, ball skills and have a lot of fun with your soccer friends!

Also, please invite friends to try out during the summer season. Since most new players come to Toca by word of mouth, don’t be shy and bring a friend!

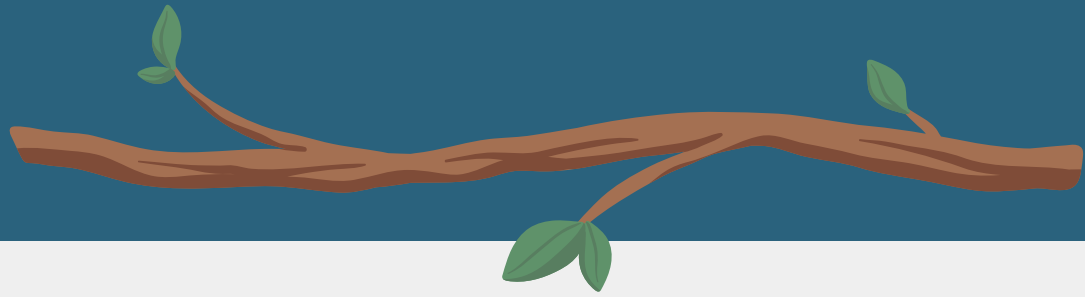


SUMMER CLINIC

We are very excited to finally be able to offer our families an all day program this summer at the Toca Complex. This clinic will run for two weeks, July 22-26 and July 29-August 2 from 9am to 5pm with aftercare available. We are offering bus transportation to and from Toca as well as optional lunch service. **Registration is now open!** Please stay tuned for more information about this amazing opportunity or contact info@tocajuniors.com with any questions.



“And little did I know, she was the sturdy branch that lifted me while I played in the trees, always finding her way to where I placed my feet.”



So many thanks to our lovely moms:

We can't end this newsletter without a very grateful salute to all our beautiful soccer moms! From Paula Lugones whose video recording of goals has stretched over 10 years and has delighted us over and over. To the newest moms who joined this year as buddies, drivers, and managers. So many of you have devoted years to us as volunteers, trip chaperones or sideline medics. **You** are your children's most important cheerleaders!



Happy
Mothers Day

Looking forward: Copa America USA 2024!

This summer the Copa America is coming to the United States and we hope that many Toca families will enjoy watching their favorite national teams in person or on TV. 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 or host a Toca tailgate!

If you are interested in going to the USA vs Colombia game on June 8th, we have discounted tickets. Contact info@tocajuniors for more info.



Thank you to our SPONSORS



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