

»» SUMMER 2024 ««



TOCA NEWSLETTER



Playing Simple!
Friends, Family and Futbol

TEAM SPOTLIGHT!

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Newsletter Highlights

- **Team Spotlight:** The Mystics (u19 girls) ended their time at Toca with one last Toca Tour together and won first place in the Cup No. 1 Tournament in Denmark!
- **Field Inauguration Ceremony:** Field Santiago Vesperoni was named and inaugurated in a beautiful ceremony after which everyone enjoyed lots of soccer and great food.
- **Rookie Teams:** Toca welcomes our new boys team for fall: the Azzurri as they join our 14 youth teams and 5 adult teams. Welcome Azzurri!
- **Toca First:** First All Day Summer Camp program at our complex was a huge success!
- **Summer Training:** Thanks to our dedicated coaches training continued throughout the summer and had a huge impact on players skill development and fitness.
- **Coaches Corner:** We are so grateful for Coach Fernando and Mark's incredible ten years of dedication to the Huskies and the Mystics. We also welcome our amazing new coaches!
- **Events at the Complex:** This summer we hosted five fantastic events at the Toca Complex: a beautiful graduation party, an outdoor music festival, a humanitarian aid fundraiser and two spectacular birthday parties.
- **Field Hockey Program:** The elementary school girls are back for the Fall and we are so excited to see all the progress they are making.
- **News from the Complex:** Providing updates on the expansion and improvement of the Toca Complex, including field renovations, construction projects, and facility enhancements. Acknowledging the contributions of partners and volunteers in these endeavors.
- **Gratitude to Sponsors:** Recognizing the invaluable support of sponsors as we prepare for our 2nd annual 5k Race. Special thank you to Crisp and Juicy, our Primary Sponsor!
- **Upcoming Events:** Our 2nd Annual Sugarloaf Mountain View Run is just around the corner! Don't forget to register for the Race Oct 27 and come out to enjoy the fall weather and beautiful leaves. We are also planning our end of the season party for November 16th!



Toca's Annual 5km Event is Back!

October 27, 2024 we will be hosting our Second Annual Sugarloaf Mountain View Run. This cross country 5k race criss-crosses our Toca Complex and allows runners to enjoy an amazing view of the fall foliage and the silhouette of Sugarloaf Mountain. The event will also include a 1 mile nature walk and a Caterpillar Run for our youngest athletes. Everyone is encouraged to come out and enjoy the fall weather, some special food, and a great after party!

**Ready,
Set,
GO!!!**



Team Spotlight: Champions!



TOCA TOUR 2024

FIRST PLACE AT DENMARK'S CUP NO. 1 CHAMPIONSHIP

We just can't let these girls go without one more final hurrah!! As the Mystics set off for Europe on their last Toca Tour they were determined to make the most of this last trip together. The fact that they put in the time and effort to be prepared to compete became clear as they began to win their group stage matches. The team faced many challenges: key players that couldn't make the trip, players who got sick with Covid-19 (again!), the usual weather in Denmark and sleeping on inflatable mats in a classroom. However, the Mystics are fighters and they kept their eyes on their goal. In 2022 they had placed third in Cup No. 1 and this time they came to win it. And win they did! Congrats to all the girls, Coach Fernando, Coach Mark and Coach Christian for coaching the Mystics to a first place gold cup in an international tournament!!!

A joint Toca high school boys team, combining Broncos, Warriors and Patriots joined the girls on this trip. On this first trip for the boys they competed in both Cup No. 1 and Gothia Cup. It was wonderful to see how this group came together over the two weeks growing as players, pushing themselves on the field and creating many friendships. They came back committed to working harder, to improve and to be able to return and compete at this level again. Congratulations to Coaches Ettore and Lucas on making this a fantastic experience for the boys!

The New Santiago Vesperoni Field

This progress would not be possible without the support of the Vesperoni Family



Field Santiago Vesperoni has been officially inaugurated!

On Sunday June 15th we welcomed our community and many close friends and family to name our new field in honor of Santiago Vesperoni. The Vesperoni family, Esteban, Silvia, Matías and Julieta and grandparents, Marta and Adolfo were there to unveil the beautiful sign handmade by Omar Cerizo that they donated in addition to their huge help for the construction of the field along with that of many other families. Above all we must thank the Bassin family for their donation to this field and for Stuart's incredible help bringing sponsors to support this dream come true. It is with full hearts that the Toca family came together to inaugurate the beautiful field that will forever stand as a tribute to a beautiful child. Everyone enjoyed the bright sunshine and the many small sided friendly games as well as the wonderful empanadas and sausage sandwiches by Hector Playuk chef and owner of La Panetteria.

Rookie Teams



Brand

New

TEAMS!



We give an enthusiastic promotion to our former Minis players who are old enough for their first season in MSI Classic. The now U9 boys team, Azzurri, started their first season competing with resounding wins and no doubt have a very bright future ahead of them. They have learned so much under the direction of Coaches Davide and Luis. Congratulations to these boys' Minis coaches for preparing them so well over the years and for now making the move into the MSI Classic league. Let's go, Azzurri, keep up the great work!

Another relatively new group is the Minis Girls training program. This program has doubled since its first season this past spring and they now have their own dedicated Coach Lu! This group for girls ages 6-8 is designed to teach the fundamentals and get players ready to join a soccer team. They are always ready for fun and enjoy learning new drills and skills.. Hip hip hooray!!

Record-Setting Summer Season



Hurray for Summer Training!

All of our Toca teams enjoyed the opportunity to stay in shape and build on their soccer skills and consolidate all the progress they made during the spring season at our Summer Training Program. Practices were held in the evening at Avenel Local Park, as they are every summer. Players and coaches dedication and effort paid off and we are seeing much stronger teams this fall season as a result. Congratulations to both players and coaches for an outstanding season!

Summer Soccer Clinic at the Complex

This summer we held our very first all day summer program at the Toca Complex. This summer clinic provided players the opportunity to dedicate a whole week to focus on soccer. The clinic was offered for two weeks and many players participated in both. The morning began with warm ups then speed and agility training. Players then participated in ball mastery drills, passing and finishing practice, specialized sessions with our homegrown goalie coach, Tyler Neal, and many games of world cup and swedish fish.



Players made new friends, honed their skills and looked forward to the end of the day scrimmage. We look forward to growing this program for next summer so please reach out if you have feedback.

Coaches Corner



Thank you to Coach Mark and Coach Fernando for so many wonderful years

We can't say enough about the Mystics as they leave us, and we feel the same way about their coaches Fernando and Mark. Both Fernando Plastino and Mark Johnson first became assistant coaches for Toca when their sons played on the Huskies ten years ago. Within a couple years they were also coaching their daughters on the Mystics. On both teams they worked with Coach Christian as head coach, and they became very close friends throughout the years. Fernando brought to the team an in-depth knowledge of soccer and his experience as a top volleyball player in his hometown of La Plata. However Fernando quickly became known for his passion and fierce dedication to the players and the club. Mark, who had played soccer for his high school in Connecticut, brought his calm presence and his impeccable organizational skills as well as his unwavering dedication to the team. These three coaches complemented each other, and brought unique skills and balance to the management of their teams. Every player that benefited from their coaching is truly lucky to have had such dedicated and knowledgeable coaches! Congratulations and much luck to both!

We also are delighted to welcome several new assistant coaches to our coaching staff. Coach Luis has joined Coach Davide in the Azzurri where they are enjoying coaching their sons. Coach Elias is giving Coach Tomás a hand with the Pirates and is very welcome addition to the team. And Coach Camilo has joined Coach Eze with the ever growing Minis program. Coaches Jeff and Miguel, players on La Tocadita adult men's team, have stepped up to the plate to give coaches Christian, Marco and Bernardo a hand on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Events at the complex



“I CAN’T GET ENOUGH OF THE VIEW... SUMMER EVENTS AT THE COMPLEX ARE THE BEST PART OF THE YEAR”

This summer Toca has had the privilege to host five fantastic events at the Complex: In the beginning of the summer, our new all purpose room and outdoor social area were the site of a beautiful graduation party for three of our graduating Mystics. Later in the summer, local artist Mateo Ferro held an outdoor music festival where many of his fans enjoyed his latin music vibes. The end of the summer saw a well attended and very successful fundraiser held by Giovanni Marchand and his non-profit Hungry for Change, where they raised funds and collected clothes to send to Kenya. To wrap up the list of great events at the complex, Toca was the location of two spectacular birthday parties enjoyed by friends and family. If you are a member of our club and interested in having your event at our facility, reach out to info@tocajuniors.com!

Field Hockey At Toca

The girls are back for the Fall and we are so excited to see all the progress they are making. Their coaches have really begun to consolidate the program and their excellent coaching has attracted a growing group of girls. They have made a positive change with the rental of a turf field for the end of the fall. This should be a big improvement for the girls!



**Field Hockey
is Back!**





News from the Complex



A visit to the Toca Complex will make all the recent progress evident. Of course maintenance on both fields is constant but after the long drought and extreme heat we suffered in July and August there was so much to repair to get the fields ready for the fall season. We have been so fortunate to have the expertise and great advice of Ted, who plays on the Saturday and Wednesday Fulbito y Asado team and more importantly is the manager of three golf clubs including nearby Whiskey Creek. Ted has been instrumental to helping us get the fields appropriately treated with pesticides and fertilizers, aerated and reseeded. Thank you, Ted!

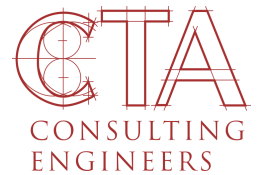
Among other improvements, the posts have been placed around the Santiago Vesperoni Field for the future net to keep balls from rolling down the hill. We have also made improvements to the water management system for rain runoff from the field.

As summer came to a close we began construction of a new deck to surround the all purpose room and clubhouse. We also purchased new tables from St Mary's School in Rockville. Thanks to Cecilia and Buck Huppmann for connecting us with this bonanza! We hope everyone enjoys the new seating area at the race in a few weeks!

We can't wait to have everyone come out to see all the improvements and to help us debut our new outdoor deck! If you would like to get involved, have skills to contribute or funds to donate don't hesitate to contact us.

THANK YOU RACE SPONSORS!

Sneak peak at our 5km event sponsors! Thank you for all the support



Thank you to all the sponsors who have reached out to support our 5km event, it wouldn't be possible without you!

As we approach the race we absolutely must give a big shoutout to our magnificent community for their support. This year 12 businesses owned by Toca friends and families have reached out to sponsor our Toca 5k Run. We wish to thank each and everyone of them and we are really excited to see how wonderful the new jerseys will look with all the sponsors on the back.

As progress continues on the complex and clubhouse, we again want to acknowledge the invaluable help of so many donors and sponsors that continue to allow us to move forward with this enormous project. News from the Complex

Upcoming Events at Toca!



THIS FALL AT TOCA



ANNUAL 5KM CHARITY RUN

Our Second Annual Sugarloaf Mountain View: Only a few days left until the 5k run! Don't forget to [register asap](#) for our cross country race, the one mile nature walk or the caterpillar run... whichever suits you best. Come enjoy the leaves, the view, the food and all the fun!



END OF THE SEASON PARTY

End of the Season Party: We are very excited to offer our families and players an End of the Season Party at the Toca Complex. We will share photos and videos of the season, give awards out and share a nice meal. Please save the date Nov. 16

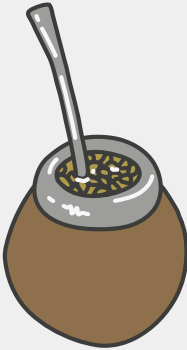


WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



¡¡Felicitaciones a la Selección Argentina!!

This summer many Toca families enjoyed watching their favorite national teams in person or on TV. We are so grateful to have been able to have so many Toca families join us at the games we attended. What fabulous fans! What a tailgate! What a game!





Looking forward:

Please be on the lookout for Winter training details coming soon! Registration will be in November, and trainings will be held indoor and outdoor starting in december. Some teams will participate in the winter league.

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