

# ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ST. PATRICK'S DAY INVITATIONAL BRINGS COMPETITION, HELPS BUILD FFC'S REPUTATION

**FREDERICKSBURG, VA. (Saturday, April 13, 2019)**—Following a second successful FFC St. Patrick's Day Invitational, "The Pitch" spoke with Tournament Director Mayowa Owolabi about various aspects of the event to close out the 2019 edition.



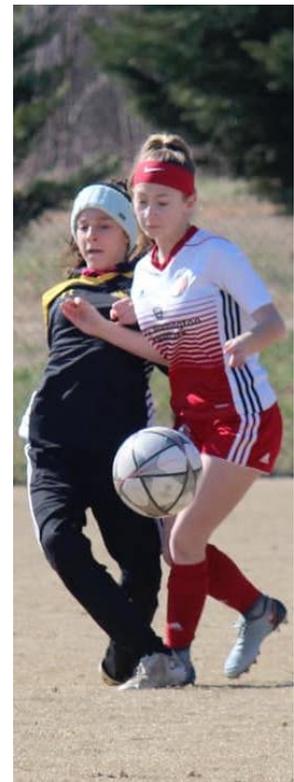
After having already seen growth in year two—from 70+ boys and girls teams in 2018 to over 80 this year—FFC Park's wonderfully maintained fields would definitely be put to the test with so many quality teams in attendance. Owolabi was pleased passed with flying colors.

"The 2nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Invitational went extremely well," he said. "This year, we added about 15 more teams, so we really pushed FFC Park to full capacity, but the event went well. The weather was fantastic this St. Patrick's Day weekend, so I was certainly very appreciative of that."

With a year under its proverbial belt and the added number teams, there was also added expectation that the level of play would increase. According to Owolabi, it most certainly did as the teams took advantage the magnificent weekend to show their wares.

"A major highlight was the competitive level that was showcased at this tournament. In comparison to last year's event, we brought a higher level of competitive teams," Owolabi said. "I am very excited to see the tournament has now gotten placed on everybody's radar and more teams are excited about attending at our beautiful facility."

The timing of this tournament can also serve a greater purpose. As it's before the being of teams' Spring seasons, it is a great opportunity for teams and clubs to evaluate, which in turns helps teams and clubs plan for the upcoming season's training.



"The St. Patrick's Day Invitational is a fantastic preseason tournament. It allows you to come in and really see where your team is before entering the Spring season," Owolabi, who is also FFC's Technical Director and a coach, stated. "I know specifically for our FFC teams, myself and the technical staff used this tournament as a great way to evaluate and

assess our travel teams before we started CCL, NCSL and ODSL league play. This allowed us to get information over to coaches, go assist the coaches with planning and managing their Spring season loads.”

With FFC also hosting the first-ever FFC Virginia Summer Showcase on Aug. 16-18, the success of the first two FFC St. Patrick’s Day Invationals has also helped build the club’s reputation.

Other clubs now know that FFC will provide an outstanding environment that will serve their teams well and provide what teams desire when scheduling events for their teams to attend.



“At this point, we have hosted two tournaments since I came into the club 16 months ago,” Owolabi said. “With the success the St. Patrick’s Day Invitational has had, I believe other clubs and teams can now recognize that FFC can host a well organized and competitive tournament. With that background and credibility, I believe we have been able to create a bigger network of clubs and teams that trust our tournament operations management, believe that their teams will get the appropriate competitive environment . . . and people continue to love FFC Park and what our facilities have to offer.”



***FFC Media Director Tom Leiss wrote this follow-up piece with photos coming from Jennifer Beland.***