

THOMAS BULL

In this issue, "The Pitch" talked with Thomas Bull to help you get to know our Minis Director, who has been turning the program into a very successful part of the Fredericksburg FC club and community. Coach Tom is part of that community, living in Fredericksburg with his wife and four children.



A.K.A.: Coach Tom

Age: 38 (DOB: February 6, 1980)

Hometown: Springfield, Va.

Title(s): Minis Director

Started at FFC: 2010 with FASA [now FFC] as a recreational coach

College: Virginia Tech (2004 BA/BS, Computer Science, History, Math, Geology/Geography)

Coaching Credentials: U.S. Soccer National E license

What is your coaching experience?

PWSI Recreational Coach, FASA Recreational Coach, FFC Recreational Coach, FFC U11 and U12 Boys Red/Gold coach (NCSL/CCL2)

What is your playing experience?

LMVSC, Alexandria, Va., Gunston Soccer, Mt. Vernon, Va.

How did you hear about the club?

When we moved to the area, we were looking for a club for my son to play in and FASA made the most sense.

What made you first get involved in soccer?

My parents enrolled me in a youth soccer program at the age of 5 because they couldn't stand watching T-Ball games. I was fortunate enough to have passionate coaches who instilled a love and passion for the game.

What made you want to start coaching?

When my oldest son started playing recreational soccer, I offered to help the coach run sessions. I discovered how rewarding it was to share my knowledge to the players and it was



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obvious how much they responded to my energy and coaching style. That motivated me to get formal training and seek out additional resources to improve how I could help the players I coached both realize their full soccer potential and be left with a love for the game.

What would you say was the biggest thing that helped you during your playing career?

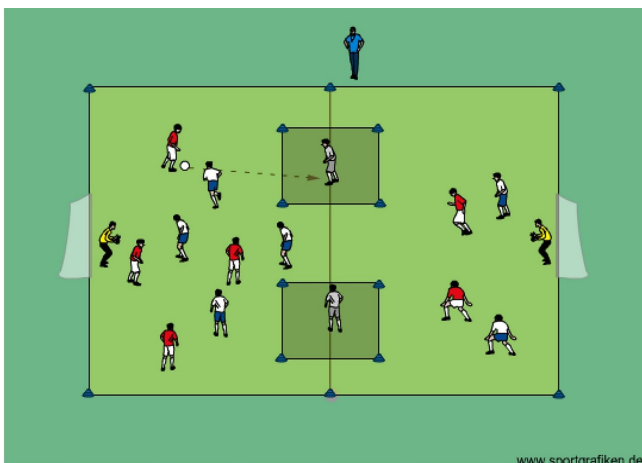
I was always the smallest player on any team I played on, which forced me to work harder to achieve success.

Who was your biggest influence in your playing career?

My first travel coach Robert Garza.

Who is your biggest influence in your coaching career?

My oldest son's coach, Roy Thompson. He allowed me to assist in training sessions and games, imparting a vast amount of knowledge about the game and how to coach. He also helped give me the confidence to start coaching in the travel program.



What's your favorite drill and why?

Counter-Attack. It is a quick paced game that keeps players focused and engaged. The drill encourages heads up passing and creativity while also reinforcing the need to maintain shape and responsibility.

What is your best memory from your playing days?

Scoring the deciding goal in the Jefferson Cup championship match.

What is your best memory from coaching?

Not one specific memory, but coaching the '03 Boys Gold team, which was formed primarily with players new to the travel program. It was extremely rewarding to see the players develop individually and grow as a team, ultimately finding success on the field at the end of their year. Their hard work, dedication to the each other, and perseverance were great to witness and be a part of.

Who's your favorite professional soccer team and why?

San Lorenzo [Argentina]. My wife and I went to a match while on vacation and fell in love with the energy and the passion of the fans and players. It is hard to watch their matches, but they have a storied history in one of the most passionate Football nations in the world.



Who's your favorite professional player (past and/or present) and why?

Dani Alves. Probably one of the best wing-back players who regularly contributes in the offensive third while being able to track back and slow counter-attacks.

What's your favorite food?

Dry Aged Ribeye

What's your favorite movie?

The Royal Tenenbaums

What's your favorite kind of music?

Alternative Rock and Jam music

What do you like to do other than soccer?

Read, brew beer, play with my kids, hiking, boating.

If you got shipwrecked on a deserted island, what 3 things would you want with you?

A tablet loaded with music and books, a solar charger, a fire starter

If they did a movie about your life, what actor would play you and why?

Benedict Cumberbatch. An amazing actor with an extremely wide range that is adept at making you feel what the character is going through.

