

TEAM OF THE MONTH

For “Team of the Month” we hope to talk to one of our teams each month. To be featured here, your team doesn’t necessarily have to win every game it plays. We want to feature those teams, as well as teams that represent the club well with how they play and train, support the community, improve from game to game and practice to practice, support each other and the club. If you know an FFC team that would be good to recognize here, email tleiss@fredericksburgfc.org.

FFC 08 GIRLS FUTSAL

The FFC 08 Girls Futsal team took part in the UFL Presidents Cup on Sunday, Feb. 17 and brought home the U11 Girls Championship.

The girls went undefeated through group play to advance to the final where they dispatched VA United FC 08G in a thrilling 3-2 final match to bring home the victory for the club.



UFL PRESIDENTS CUP RESULTS

W, 3-2 - vs. LMVSC 08G

W, 9-1 - vs. PWSI 08G

W, 4-2 - vs. Puma Elite 09G

W, 3-2 - vs. VA United 08G (FINAL)

“The Pitch” talked with head coach Mayowa Owolabi about the team’s performance at the tournament, as well as what makes them a good team in general and so fun moments he remembers about the group. Here’s what he had to say:

What makes this group a good team?

The dedication and hard work each one of these girls puts in during every training session and game is what separates these girls from other teams. We naturally go into every match outsized, but the technical ability and determination to compete is what helps these girls find a lot of their success.

What was the key to the team having success at this tournament?

The same determination. We competed in an event in January and pulled off two ties and a loss. I believe they wanted to enter this tournament and prove to themselves and parents



that they could play. They did that. For this specific event, we were able to watch the team we were going to play in the final during their second match and before our third match. While watching we recognized they played a 2-2 formation. The first two games we played, we played a 1-2-1 formation, but after watching the VA United team we knew we would play in the finals, I decided to switch our formation to match them. During our third game, we used the 2-2 formation to get a better understanding and then in the final we used it again and in a sense beat the team in their own style of play, which for the girls should be very rewarding. We set a plan and accomplished a goal, leaving the long day as the UFL President's Day Champions.



Do you have any fun little stories about this group in general or from the tournament?

A shout out moment to Zoe and Naomi Sample. Before coaching the 2008 Girls Black I was coaching the 2010 Girls Black. Zoe plays on the 2008 Girls Black team and her younger sister, Naomi plays on the

2010 Girls Black team. The first couple of training sessions I had with the 2008 Girls Black team I would always call Zoe Naomi and all the girls would get on me about it.... I still slip up every so often, but as a team the girls always catch me if I make the mistake. I told them, I get three strikes a month and if I do more I owe Zoe something. I haven't hit three in a month, but I know the team is waiting for me to fail.

Is there anything else you'd like to add about the team?

Without the continued support of the parents I don't know if this team would be where it is today. The commitment of youth soccer today can be stressful and this group of parents has taken on the responsibilities well. Whether it is long tournament days or multiple training sessions a week, they are always there, and there early, and have their kids prepared with everything they need to be able to come in and get straight to work. I value and appreciate their commitment to their children development.

