

## 08 AND 06 GIRLS REPRESENT FFC WELL AT U.S. FUTSAL NATIONALS

**BY TOM LEISS**

*FFC Social Media / Communications / News Director*

Email: [tleiss@fredericksburgfc.org](mailto:tleiss@fredericksburgfc.org)

Twitter: [@TomLeiss](https://twitter.com/TomLeiss)



Two teams advanced to represent Fredericksburg FC at this year's U.S. Youth Futsal National championships held in Kansas City, Kan., on Feb. 16-19.

The 08 and 06 Girls Select teams each took part in the event after competing in state and regional tournaments. The 08 girls reached the semifinals, matching the deepest an FFC team has advanced—following in the footsteps of the 03 Girls Black team that did the same in 2017.

Without even considering the results, the event was a great opportunity for the player to expand their experience and get another taste of tough competition.



“The kids gained a lot from going to nationals. I believe the kids are playing a high-quality level of soccer so they came back better players from going to nationals,” said coach JuanRa Fajardo. “It is fun to see how they spend more time together as a team on and off the field, so it is beneficial for the team and for the players individually. It is enjoyable to see the kids playing in nationals, they were fantastic.”

FFC Girls Director of Coaching Ken Krieger stated that the experience in Kansas City was an awesome opportunity to get face top-level opponents, but also to understand the grind top-level player to continue to up their level of play.

Fajardo was thinking along the same lines says that it helps the club in many ways, from getting exposed to better teams to helping it gain more respect among clubs.

“One, everyone knows Fredericksburg Football club at futsal nationals now, they expect us to come back every year and they know we have competitive teams,” he said. “Two, our teams get compete against the best teams, and three, our kids are playing in a great environment so they learn how to play under pressure games because every game at futsal nationals is very competitive.”

## **U.S. Youth Futsal National Championships**

***New Century Field House, MAC and SportPlex Olathe (Kansas City, Kan.)***

### **FFC 08 GIRLS SELECT: 2-2-0 (11 GF / 10 GA)**

W, 6-2 - vs. GSE Futsal Academy 2008G Black (Mo.)

W, 3-1 - vs. LOU FUSZ BLUE STAR FUTSAL-1 (Mo.)

L, 1-4 - vs. Ginga G08 (Ohio)

L, 1-3 - vs. Sporting BV Switzerland 08 (Kan.) [Semifinals] - Eventual Champion

### **FFC 06 GIRLS SELECT: 1-3-0 (12 GF / 21 GA)**

W, 7-2 - vs. Ginga G06 (Ohio)

L, 1-9 - vs. Heart & Sole FA 2006 (Ohio) - Eventual Champion

L, 1-5 - vs. FutsalRVA (Va.)

L, 3-5 - vs. Madison Futsal 06G Forge (Wis.)

On a team-specific level, Fajardo had this to say about each squad and their performance at the tournament:

*“The 08 girls performance was amazing. Last year, this team won one game at nationals, this year they made it to the semifinals, so it was a huge step forward with this group. This group will back stronger next year.*”

*“The 06 girls had a good tournament. It was the first futsal national for this group, so they were exciting to compete. Some of the*



*players were nervous before the games, but it is common when you are playing and many people is watching you.*



*“Overall, I’m so proud with both teams. They had such a great tournament and we will be back better next year,” he concluded.*

Krieger said it’s important for the club to continue to push its players to grow and develop, and playing in top-quality tournaments like this will only help further that objective.

“The priority is to develop players to be able to play at that level,” Krieger said. “FFC has committed to training at the highest level and is

looking forward to more opportunities to compete with the rest of the elite clubs across the U.S.”

Coach JuanRa put out a bit of a challenge to the rest of FFC’s teams and players in hopes of the club being represented even more at next year’s national championships.

“I want to invite all players and parents to participate in futsal next winter because I want to see more FFC teams at futsal nationals,” he expressed. “I know we have good players and teams that are able to compete against the best teams in the states.”