

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 teams 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.

APRIL 2018

FFC 04 GIRLS BLACK

This month we are showcasing two teams who not only had an outstanding April, but have been on a roll for all of 2018.

FFC 04 Girls Black has lost just on this season, while FFC 03 Girls Black have yet to lose *any* games in tournament and league play.

Both teams are near the top in the ultra competitive Eastern Regional League, a composite of the top clubs in Region 1.



FFC 03 GIRLS BLACK

The 04s went 4-0 to win their division earlier this year at the the Jefferson Cup, capturing the title with a 1-0 win over Piedmont Triad FC 04 Lady Black. The 03s didn’t win their division in the Showcase level of the event, but didn’t lose either, finished 2-0-1, but missing out on advancing to the final by 1 goal in the goal-difference tiebreaker.

The 04s also advanced in the VYSA Spring State Cup Series during April with a 1-0 overtime win over Virginia Rush 2004G on April 21. FFC, the No. 9 seed in the tournament, advances to face top-seeded Arlington SA 2004 Girls in the Quarterfinals on May 5. With an upset, the FFC would at least match the 03s run to the semifinals last Fall.



Both teams, each of which are coached by Grover Gibson, have been working extremely hard to improve their play as both individuals and as teams. All the extra sessions and after winter break and playing a full futsal season from December through March are now paying dividends in the Spring season.

Gibson stressed that it's not just all about the work put in *on* the field, but also how close the girls on each team are off of it that has helped me them successful.

"I think it's all about creating the balance between a very serious and demanding environment, but also allowing the players to enjoy themselves both on and off the field," he said. "There is a good balance of time to get to work and time to have a laugh."

Gibson said he can't wait to see how these two motivated groups progress in the years to come.

"Both groups have shown a true desire to want to improve at every session and have the ability to do big things both as teams and individuals," he expressed. "I'm looking forward to see what they are capable of by the time they graduate!"

MARCH 2018

FFC 99 BOYS BLACK

The FFC 99 Boys Black team is the Team of the Month for March. They are finishing up the Jefferson Cup Showcase tournament this weekend so we are holding off on doing a write-up about the team until they finish the event . . . Also, so their coach - Ryan Zinkhan, who you read above is leaving for Oregon for his new coaching position - can have a chance to thoughtfully answer questions about the this great bunch of kids he had been coaching.

Please click the link below to check in and see what he has to say about the squad once it's been posted. Sorry for the delay, but we want to be able to do the kids justice for their hard work.



There were several other outstanding FFC teams in contention for this month's award as well, but making it hard focus to make a decision on this just shows how hard all the players and their families, and their coaches, are working! Keep up the good work!

We're also going to start giving recognition to the other teams that earn consideration each month by listing Honorable Mentions, because we know how hard everybody is working and would like to give recognition to more than just one team. March's Honorable Mentions are:

- **FFC 04 Girls Black**
- **FFC 06 Boys Black**
- **FFC 06 Girls Red**

All teams . . . KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!

FEBRUARY 2018

FFC 01 BOYS BLACK

The FFC 01 Boys Black team has opened 2018 with a strong run of play in the Spring Travel campaign, compiling a 3-0-1 record so far.

It has been a great start for a rather new team that was only assembled before the Fall 2017 season. Head coach JuanRa Fajardo, who stepped into the lead roll with the team said "it's big a big process with this group" that also includes several players from the 02 boys age group.



Fajardo said one of the highlights of the early stretch of games has been the amount of teamwork and the group displays after only having one season together.

Results:

W, 2-1 - vs. FC Frederick

T, 0-0 - vs. Potomac Soccer Association (PSA) - CCL Showcase

W, 2-0 - vs. Southwestern Youth Association (SYA) - CCL Showcase

W, 1-0 - vs. Lee-Mount Vernon Sports Club (LMVSC)

Here's some more on what coach Fajardo had to say about the team . . .

Can you tell us about the games so far and how it's played out so far with this team?

We had the CASL tournament in Pennsylvania, which was our last fall tournament. The team played three games over there, going 2-1-0. This tournament was the beginning of a great start for the 01BB team. After this tournament, I had a good feeling that they would have a good spring season. It was hard sometimes for the players and parents to see the results we had in the Fall season because I know we had a good young team, but they had to go through this process of adaptation, such as new players, different formations, players playing in different positions, etc. So, it wasn't an easy challenge, but I'm glad the players never doubted about this process even when we had bad results every weekend. I always told them that I'm never going to stop working with them until we get the results we deserve, so now we are having a good Spring season so far.

What do you think has been the key to them getting off to such a good start?

I think they know each other better than before. . . . They understand what I expect from them every game and practice.

Any fun little stories about these guys?

They don't like to do fitness . . . hahaha . . . so when we play small-sided games, the losing team needs to do a 'punishment,' so all players are trying to win. It is fun to see how competitive everyone gets trying to win a practice game just because they want to see the losing teams doing fitness.

How are these guys together off there field?

They have a good relationship off the field. Most of these guys are in the same high school so they spend a lot of time together as a friends off the field.

Having a coach that you know is committed to you is big when it comes to getting played to work hard and seems the 01 Boys Black definitely have that in Coach JuanRa . . .

I want everyone to know that I am here working with all players to make them better. I want to teach them everything I know so they can play at the college level because that's one of my goals.

JANUARY 2018

The FFC 08 Girls Select Futsal team has been playing well this winter and recently showed their skill and hard work at the U.S. Youth Futsal Mid-Atlantic Regional Championships in Richmond, Jan. 20-21.

FFC 08 GIRLS SELECT FUTSAL

They, along with two other FFC teams, closed out the tournament with finalist showings finishing with a 3-1-0 record.

Training has been going well all winter and the team awaits the beginning of Mid-Atlantic Futsal League play.

Results:

U.S. YOUTH FUTSAL MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

W, 10-2 - vs. FutsalRVA FDA Girls Green

W, 7-2 - vs. Kickers FUTSAL U10 Girls Red

W, 5-2 (Semifinals) - vs. FutsalRVA FDA Girls Blue

L, 2-6 (Final) - vs. Futsal RVA 2008



Here are a few thoughts from coach Juanra Fajardo on the team.

The team is a really special group because it has been playing together for a long time, they know each other really well. They are not just teammates, they are sisters . . . They support and help each other.

The key of this group is their strong mentality. They want to compete and win every single game. When this group lost a game they remembered it because they will be excited to compete against this team again. They will never stop trying until they get what they want . . . winning every game.

Everyone will know this team for the way they play, compete and work hard to get a positive result, not because they deserve it, it's because they work and compete for success.

I've got so many special stories with this group, but for this past tournament some of the girls brought a stuffed animal before the games. I thought it was so funny that they carried a stuffed animal with them before the games.

I also want to thank the parents of this group. This team is also special because of them. They support and help each other all the time. They make everything possible.