

AKRON INNER-CITY SOCCER CLUB

NEWSLETTER

2025



CELEBRATING TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF THE AKRON INNER CITY CLUB
MAYR SHAMMAS MALIK. A PROCLAMTION WAS ISSUED DECLARING
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024 AS AKRON INNER CITY SOCCER CLUB
DAY IN THE CITY OF AKRON.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- | | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------|---|
| 1 | Table of Content | 2 | Note from The President |
| 3-4 | Dileh Sowa | 5 | 25 Years Celebration of Akron Inner City Soccer Club |
| 6 | 10th Annual Akron Unity Soccer Tournament | 7 | Spring & Fall Game Statistic |
| 8 | 2nd Annual Akron City Festival & Parade Celebrating Our Future Leaders | 9 | Summer Camp |
| 10-11 | Picture Gallery | 12 | Special Thanks to AICSC Sponsors |
| 13 | Coaches and Recognition | 14 | Program Timeline 2025 |



High School Team Division Champions 2024 Spring Competition Game of Ohio Soccer Travel League



Year 2024 was filled with many wins, excitement, achievements and beautiful memories. We started with eight weeks of free Winter indoor foots skill training for ages 5-18 boys and girls. We served over one hundred participants per session. We then moved outdoor for the sixteen weeks of practices and league games for spring. We registered nine teams with the Ohio Travel Soccer League (OHTSL). Our high school team was the division

champion. The spring session was followed by the four weeks of free Summer Soccer Camps which were held in four different locations around the city. We were able to have over 400 boys and girls participants. Our fall program consisted of sixteen weeks of practices and league games. Our U11-Boys were the division champions. In 2024 we offered two successful tournaments, The Inaugural Akron Spring Friendly Tournament and the 10th Annual Akron Unity Soccer Tournament.

It is with great joy to announce that one of our players, Delih Sowa was rostered on U14-Boys, Columbus Crew Youth Academy 2024. Three more of our players are in the final ten week evaluation period. Provided they made it through, it is an opportunity that could open doors to scholarships at Division 1, colleges or universities or to any professional soccer club here at home or abroad. The Columbus Crew is a member of the professional Major League Soccer (MLS) in USA.

I thank God for our players, parents, coaches and community supporters for the success of our program. Together we will build a stronger community.



Green 3 V 3 Tournament with Coach Dele, 2009



Parent Corner – Wilmot Sowa Akron Inner City Soccer Club (AICSC) – A Springboard to Success

Akron Inner City Soccer Club (AICSC) is a springboard to success. To put things in perspective, let's meet this young man, a product of this distinguished soccer club that has served as a springboard to his promising soccer career. Hi, my name is Wilmot Sowa, and I have the pleasure of introducing you to my son, Dileh Owen Sowa, a true soccer phenomenon in the making.

Dileh, born on September 2nd, 2011, at the Akron General Hospital, started his soccer career in August 2016 at AICSC. AICSC, which has been around since 1999, is a family-oriented, child-focused, non-profit soccer club that provides fun activities geared towards soccer skills development at an affordable cost for Akron inner city youths and any other child wanting to participate.

The President, Coach Dele Olabisi, has been nothing short of amazing and welcoming of every child he crosses paths with, giving back to the community everything he could to help give these kids a brighter future. Dileh is a testament to Coach Dele and the entire AICSC's commitment, sacrifice, and hard work in the Akron community and its surroundings.

Dileh, like many other kids, started playing at age 5. At that age, the kids are mostly fascinated with the idea of just kicking the ball and hopefully scoring a goal. Winning was never a priority; they

simply just wanted to get out and run or play soccer, the fastest-growing youth sport in America. It was up to the AICSC coaches and staff to train and guide them in the right direction which they did passionately. As his dad and one of the soccer coaches at AICSC, I've been privileged to watch him grow and develop as a soccer player over time.

I clearly remember those early years when he roamed about the field and played out of position, those annual summer soccer camps that didn't just teach soccer fundamentals but also provided educative study materials, those long and tiring practice nights, and those dreadful games of reckless fouls and painful injuries, coupled up with bad officiating leading to a loss. In the middle of it all, It is amazing to see that the experience only increased Dileh's love for the game.

By age 10, playing both as a striker and a winger, he significantly helped his team (AICSC U11-U13) become a top contender all those years of competition in the Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association (GAASA) and Ohio Travel Soccer League (OHTSL), scoring the most goals and finishing as champions in 2021-2022 season. Also, the team became champions back-to-back years of the Mike Good Memorial tournaments (2021, 2022).

May I also add that Dileh is one of the top performing 7th graders at his school (Beulah Park Middle School) maintaining a GPA of 3.7 and making the honor roll.



DILEH SOWA



In 2023, Dileh and his family relocated to Columbus, Ohio, the epicenter of soccer in Ohio. That same year, he played for two different clubs, Columbus United (CU), competing at the National Premier League (NPL), and Club Ohio (CO) competing at the Elite Club National Leagues Regional (ECNL -RL). His exceptional performances on both Clubs certainly did not go unnoticed as the Columbus Crew professional club came knocking the following year.

In the Fall of 2024, he was invited to join the Columbus Crew U14 team where he continues to work hard on his craft in pursuit of his dream – becoming a professional soccer player. Dileh is forever grateful to all who in one way or another have contributed and will contribute to his soccer career, especially his parents who are his number 1 cheerleaders, AICSC, where it all started, The Crew, where the future lies, and most importantly, God, through His son our Lord Jesus Christ, without whom none of this is possible.



25 YEARS CELEBRATION OF AKRON INNER CITY SOCCER CLUB



All the praise and honor belong to Almighty God, His kindness and goodness towards the soccer club shines brighter each day. Thank You Lord with a grateful heart.

THEN: The club was in August in 1999 with three coaches including myself and thirty three boys and girls. The goal back then and continues to be, providing a community based soccer open to families at an affordable cost in a safe environment. It was also hoped to be a detriment to negative behavior and influence. Our first practice was at Schneider Park on the West side of Akron. We joined The Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association {GAASA} and played competitive games until spring of 2022.

NOW: In addition to our original goal, the program now has a van and a driver to help players needing rides to practices and games. We have partnered with different community organizations such as the Summit County

Public Library that provides books to summer camp attendance. We work with Summit Education Initiative (SEI) that provides up-to-date academic records of our participants and allows us to monitor their grades and attendance, which allows a coach to speak to any pleyer having an issue in either area. The goal is to encourage the high school players to graduate on time and be college or Creer ready. Some of the formal players are now coaches and assistance coaches for the club.

The city of Akron has designated and maintains Lane Field as our practice field and the Copley Road Soccer Field is our home field for games. In 2022 GAASA merged with The Ohio Travel Soccer League (OHTSL) and we became a member. This league provides us with more competitive games.

One can see the reason for the 25 years anniversary celebration of the Akron Inner City Club on Saturday, September 14, 2024.



Judy & Dele Olabisi & Mayor Shamms Malik



Board Chair- Donald Christian & Mayor



Mrs Elizabeth Kakish



Director of Coaching Ike Akpan

10TH ANNUAL AKRON UNITY SOCCER TOURNAMENT



Saturday, August 10th 2024 was a day made for soccer. We had 30 teams, 482 players and played 46 at Copley Road Soccer Complex.

One could smell and feel unity in the air as everyone was enjoying the games and sharing food. I thank all the teams, family members, and friends, coaches and referees for their support. This tournament had been on hold for 4 years due to COVID-19.

Thank you to the City of Akron Parks and Recreation Department for the amazing work of getting the field ready for the games after a heavy rain storm two days prior to the tournament.



U10-Girls - King's United



U10-Boys - Highland Youth Soccer



U11/U12-Girls - King's United



U11/U12-Boys - Norton Soccer Club



U12-Boys - Bay Village



U14-Boys - ALPHA Soccer Club



U15-Boys - Akron Inner City Soccer Club



With Michael Wright of King's United & Denico Buckley-Knight



King's United Soccer Club



SPRING SEASON

	WIN	TIES	LOSSES	STANDINGS	
1. U9-BOYS	2	1	5	7TH OF 10 TEAMS	
2. U9-BOYS	3	3	2	5TH OF 10 TEAMS	
3. U9-GIRLS	1	0	7	7TH OF 8 TEAMS	
4. U9-GIRLS	4	0	4	4TH OF 8 TEAMS	
5. U10-BOYS	6	0	2	3RD OF 10 TEAMS	
6. U11-GIRLS	1	1	6	9TH OF 10 TEAMS	
7. U12-BOYS	5	0	3	2ND OF 6 TEAMS	
8. U14-BOYS	5	0	3	3RD OF 10 TEAMS	
9. HIGH SCHOOL	6	1	1	1ST OF 8 TEAMS	Division Champions

FALL SEASON

	WIN	TIES	LOSSES	STANDINGS	
1. U9-BOYS-TEAM	5	2	1	4TH OF 11 TEAMS	
2. U10-BOYS	4	1	3	5TH OF 10 TEAMS	
3. U10-GIRLS	1	0	7	12TH OF 12 TEAMS	
4. U11-BOYS	8	0	0	1ST OF 8 TEAMS	Division Champions
5. U12-GIRLS	5	1	2	3RD OF 6 TEAMS	
6. U13-BOYS	6	0	2	3RD OF 6 TEAMS	
7. U15-BOYS	4	1	3	3RD OF 5 TEAMS	

TOURNAMENTS PARTICIPATED IN 2024

1. Inaugural Akron Spring Friendlies 2024. We hosted
2. Tri State Cup Erie, PA
3. Labor Day Tournament Canton, Ohio
4. 10th Annual Akron Unity Tournament. We hosted
5. Battle for Lake Erie Tournament Sandusky, Ohio

2ND ANNUAL AKRON CITY FESTIVAL & PARADE CELEBRATING OUR FUTURE LEADERS



On Sunday, September 1, 2024, Akron Inner City Soccer Club participated in the 2nd. Annual Akron City Festival & Parade Celebrating Our Future Leaders at downtown Akron. It was a great event and we were proud to be a part this community event.

The players, parents, family members and coaches enjoyed themselves and look forward to the 3rd annual in 2025. Thank to Denico Buckley-Knight and crew for making the event safe and safe with music, many give aways and enjoyable for everyone.



with Coach Justin Chenault & Kaitly Dunaway

SUMMER CAMP



The 17th Annual Free Summer Soccer Camp was a huge success. The event ran for four weeks from June 10th through July 5th Monday through Friday of 2024 and served over one hundred youth per week. The camp was intentionally designed to be held at four different neighborhoods, Hardesty Park, Mason Park, Jennings CLC and Lane Field, which helped ease transportation issues for participants.

I generally receive calls in April and May from the parents here in Akron and the parents from out-of-town youth planning and anticipating to spend their summer breaks in Akron. On the evaluation sheets, many have made the remarks that the summer camp was the highlight and the most enjoyable part of their summer vacations.



with Coach Asim Chenault



Vernon Odom Lebarians & Participants Reading Hours



with Coach Zachary Iler



with Todd Ingraham

PICTURE GALLERY



Division Champions B3C3 GAASA 2014 Coach Dele & Coach Takenya Murphy



Tournament 2013 Wardworth with Coach Takenya



Division Champions GAASA 2013 with Coach Dele & Coach Roberto Garcia



Division Champions Tallmadge 2009 with Coach Dele



Division Champion GAASA 2013 with Justin Chenault

PICTURE GALLERY



The Akron Chapter of the Ohio Black Women's Leadership Caucus Award Ceremony



The Honor Project Trust Ceremony 2013 with Tunde Olabisi Chris Mullar, Dele Olabisi, Ike Akpan



U14 -Boys Talladge Tournament with Ike Akpan



U14-Girls DIVISION Champions GAASA 2013 11 with Coach Dennis Malaba and Lamah Jones



Akron Community Foundation
 Anonymous Donor
 Charles E. & Mable M. Richie Memorial Fdn.
 Glenn R. & Alice V. Boggess Memorial Fdn.
 Henry V. & Frances W. Christenson Fdn.
 Laura R. & Lucian Q. Moffitt Memorial Fdn.
 Musson, R.C. & Katharine M. Charitable Fdn.
 SAF Inc.
 The Sister McFawn Fdn.
 Welty Family Foundation
 United Way of Summit County
 Vernon Odom Fund of the Akron Community Fdn.
 David & Brandy Kroskey Family Fdn.
 Mr. Martin P Houser Fund of the
 Knights of Columbus Council 14551

In-kind Donation

Akron Public Schools
 CTI Web Services.
 The City of Akron Parks & Recreation
 The House of The Lord Church





CARAMIA BENTLEY
DASHAN ANTONIO
ENIEMA AKPAN
IKE AKPAN JR.
JUSTIN CHENAULT
KYLE FLANARY
TODD INGRAHAM
WHENDI FUBLER
KAITLYN DUNAWAY
ASIM CHENAULT



AMINA SESE
EMMANUEL SESE
EMEKA OKORO
OLABISI ADESUSI
OBA ENI
SAMSON EHICHIOYA
PAUL OKONKWO
IKE AKPAN
DELE OLABISI
CHIDOZIE MARTINS



DAVID MORALES



Urban Soccer Collaborative Symposium 2011

Ed Foster-Simeon

President & CEO US Soccer Foundation

"A Champion of soccer as a vehicle for youth development and social change"



WINTER PROGRAM

Winter Starts	Sat. 1/18/2025
Declare Spring Teams	Sat. 2/22/2025
Declare Spring Ends	Sat. 3/1/2025
Winter Ends	Sat. 3/8/2025

SPRING PROGRAM

Spring Prctice Starts	Mon. 3/17/2025
Spring Games Start	Sun. 4/13/2025
Spring Games End	Sun. 6/8/2025

SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp Starts	Mon. 6/9/2025
Declare Fall Teams	Fri. 6/20/2025
Summer Camp Ends	Thur. 7/3/2025

FALL PROGRAM

Fall Practice Starts	Mon. 7/14/2025
11th. Annual Akron Unity Tournament	Sat. 8/9/2025
Fall Games Start	Sun. 8/17/2025
Fall Games End	Sun. 10/26/2025



Battle for Lake Erie Sandusky, Ohio



Division Champions Fall OHTSL 2024



Labor Day Tournament Canton, Ohio



Labor Day Tournament U14-Boys Canton, Ohio

<https://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/an-examination-of-black-soccer-participation-and-fandom-in-america/248327298>

DELE OLABISI

330-524-3776

akroninnercitysc@gmail.com

IKE SAMSON AKPAN

330-573-0946

isamson@safincs.us.com

EMMANUEL SESE

234-334-9528

emmanuelzabay2@gmail.com

Facebook: **Akron Inner City**
Website: **www.inner-citysoccer.org**



AKRON INNER-CITY SOCCER CLUB

NEWSLETTER
2025