



Golazzo!

newsletter

Plantation FC Club Philosophy

Plantation Football Club is a non-profit organization that provides the opportunity for youth soccer players to experience the game of soccer. Our objective is to develop great soccer players along with great human beings. Players are exposed to the technical, tactical, psychological, and physical demands of the game. In addition they will also experience team-building, sportsmanship, work ethic, and leadership skills that will benefit the players for the remainder of the lives on and off the soccer field.

Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strengths. When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength. Arnold Schwarzenegger

Latest News

College commitments

Over the last several years, one of the club's objectives has been to make soccer a life long journey for all of our players. Not necessarily to win lots of trophies or medals during their youth, but to teach the soccer technique, tactics, and passion that contribute to lifelong involvement in the game. Many of our 2010 class will have the opportunity to play soccer at the next level. Few of our graduates have been with our club since the academy stages (u9-u12). Therefore we want to recognize and congratulate our 2010 class. We wish you the best of luck in your college soccer careers.

Congratulations and Best of Luck!

- ✚ Valentina Agostinone – Northwood University
- ✚ Mikaela Barboza – Barry University
- ✚ Kritzia Charres – St. Thomas University
- ✚ Jen Grimes – Embry Riddle University
- ✚ Jessie Brown – Univ. of Maryland Baltimore County
- ✚ Alex Gatesi – Western Carolina Univ.
- ✚ Ali Robau – Ave Maria Univ.
- ✚ Sara Franz – Barry University
- ✚ Melanie Poviones – Barry University
- ✚ Sara Mira – St. Thomas University
- ✚ Andrea Dorsey – Univ. of Florida
- ✚ Candice Patrick – Florida Atlantic Univ.
- ✚ Raquelle Newman – Amherst College or Wesleyan Univ.
- ✚ Derek Burkhardtsmeier – Rochester Institute of Tech.
- ✚ Derick D' Amico – Florida Gulf Coast Univ.
- ✚ Sergio Guzman – St. Thomas University
- ✚ Guillermo Huaman – St. Thomas University
- ✚ Jean Christian Sauleau – Webster University
- ✚ Daniel Schrader – St. Thomas University
- ✚ George Zeitler – United States Air Force Academy



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ **PFC Golf Tournament Fundraiser** – http://plantationeagles.com/plantationfcgolftournamentfund/index_E.html
- ❖ **PFC Summer Camp 2010** – http://www.plantationeagles.com/holidaysoccercamp/index_E.html
- ❖ **State Cup Round of 16** – May 8 & 9
- ❖ **USL Super Y League Season** – June & July – http://plantationeagles.com/SuperY/index_E.html
- ❖ **PFC 2010-2011 Tryout Dates** – http://plantationeagles.com/SuperY/index_E.html

EDUCATION

I recently viewed an article from “Soccer America” about the “joystick coach.” Since it’s fresh in my mind I thought I would share because there are some great points. The “joystick coach” is the coach that paces up and down the sideline and is constantly trying to dictate the movements and decisions of all of the players on his/her team. We have all seen this before. A couple of months ago I watched the recreational program’s “all star” game for our 6 and 7 year olds. Each team had 2 or 3 coaches and what seemed to be about 5 assistant “coaches” for each team on the sideline. So it basically looked like a professional American football coaching staff. It appeared as though there was a defensive coach, offensive coach, restart coach, goalkeeper coach, a referee coach, a water break coach, etc. It was chaos! Throughout the first half, all of the coaches had something to say. “Kick it, stay there, go there, pass it, shoot it, punt it, throw it, run faster.” This went on the whole first half. I actually remember the GK getting the ball with his GK coach standing behind the goal and about 5 or 6 different instructions was yelled at the poor child. I remember the stressful look on his face. In fear of all the yelling and confusion, he just threw the ball in order to relieve himself of all the stress. Not for 1 second was the player allowed to make a decision. It seemed like all of the “coaches” pulled out their “joysticks” and starting pounding on the 6 different buttons you get to choose from in order to manipulate play. It was very sad. At half time I pulled aside the 10 – 12 coaches we had on the sideline and I asked them to do the impossible. “Don’t say anything the 2nd

half.” Some of the coaches looked at me like I was crazy. So the second half started and the coaches had to bite their tongue. The game continued and I said to the coaches, “look, they know how to play the game.” At the beginning of the 2nd half you could see the parents asking themselves, “Why aren’t the coaches yelling.” So the parents started to scream more, but eventually they began to calm down. It was so quiet that you could hear the players on the field communicating to each other. WOW! I was so excited to hear that. So how does the “joystick coach” affect youth development? It does not give the players an opportunity to think for themselves. Players are constantly looking to the coach for instruction rather than, trying to solve the problem themselves. The more we coach like this, the more we take away from the players. If you watch a u9 game, all you hear is yelling, from the coaches and parents. That creates too much chaos and confusion for the players on the field, which doesn’t allow for them to make their own mistakes without the feeling of being threatened that they might be benched. As a result, they are not given a chance to make their own decisions and solve problems on the field. Soccer is a player’s game. The dynamics of the game make it a player’s game. There are no timeouts or huddles. For 90 minutes the players must play the game, not the coach.



– John Ramos, Director of Coaching and Player Development, Plantation Football Club



EDUCATION cont...

Don't be a 'Joystick' Coach

By Alex Kos

I first heard the term "Joystick Coaching" a few years back. What a wonderfully descriptive term. As with video games, joystick coaches want to dictate and control the movement of all players on the field. Hence the term "joystick." However, there is very little joy to be had by players when they are coached in this manner. Joystick coaching has reached epidemic proportions (and parents are just as guilty). Why is this happening? * Look at other popular youth sports such as football, baseball and basketball. Football and baseball coaches are joystick experts. Even in basketball where the game is more fluid (like soccer) and, therefore, more difficult to control and manipulate, coaches still try their best to dictate the action. Since many soccer coaches come from these backgrounds, it is only natural that joystick coaching carries over into soccer. * We are a sports nation hung up on X's and O's. Joysticking is a natural by-product of this fascination. How many times do you see

defenders standing in one spot because that is where the defenders were positioned on the dry-erase board? * Soccer is not an easy sport to learn. No matter how many times coaches tell young players to spread out and not play bunch-ball, they still do. As such, coaches feel compelled to 'help' position and move their players about. Besides early player retirements, there are other consequences of this "helping" behavior.

* In a sport that is very fluid where the action happens so quickly, players must be able to think on their feet and solve or address problems immediately. However, the more players are told what to do, the less they will be able to think for themselves. * Players lose their sense of purpose. They are out there to play a game and try their best yet are constantly being told how to play. * Once one adult starts maneuvering players on the field, other adults feel empowered to do the same. Soon, players are being told how to play and where to stand by coaches, parents, and complete strangers. And often, the three groups are giving three completely different instructions. What is a player to do?

These are some simple tips that will help coaches curb the joystick epidemic and truly help players. * Lead by

example. Limited joystick coaching during games as much as possible. * Set ground rules for your assistant coaches and parents. Explain the drawback of joystick coaching and having multiple adults "help" players with conflicting instructions. * Rather than telling players what to do and where to play, ask them how and where they should be playing. Let them think of the answer and assist only if they don't know the answer. Coaches (and parents), leave your joysticks hooked up to your game consoles at home for use with FIFA 10. If you don't, you'll be using the actual joystick much more since Saturday mornings will soon be free. *(Alex Kos' experiences as a player, coach, referee, parent and fan are shared in his blog, [Improving Soccer in the United States](#), where this article first appeared.)*



Plantation FC
www.plantationeagles.com