



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.

Motivational Quote:

“Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.”

-PELE

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. PFC Summer Camp – www.plantationeagles.com
2. PFC Tryouts – Ages u9 – u18 - May 31 – June 12
www.plantationeagles.com
3. FYSA State Cup Round of 16 – April 30 – May 1 - www.fysa.com

LATEST NEWS

1. PFC U14 Girls win region cup and finish runner up in President’s Cup
 - a. Congrats to our u12 Copa girls for winning FYSA Region Cup and placing 2nd in the FYSA President’s Cup. Great Season!!!
2. PFC teams move on to round of 16.
 - a. Congrats to our teams for moving on to the round of 16 for the FYSA State Cup competition.
 - i. U17 Girls
 - ii. U16 Girls
 - iii. U14 Boys
 - iv. U13 Boys

EDUCATION

The Soccer Bug

We wonder what is the secret to success in soccer. How did Messi or Ronaldinho become so great? Many parents ask me “what can I do to make my son/daughter better or great. There are some things we can do as coaches. But never believe a coach when he tells you he can make your son/daughter great. In reality, great players make themselves.

There is one element I always look for in a player when attempting to recognize how far that player will go. I call it “the bug.” In some cases, the “bug” initiates at a very young age, maybe around 8 or 9. I remember not getting the bug until I was around the age of 13. It was actually the 1986 world cup (don’t waste your time trying to figure out my age) that made me realize what I wanted to do the rest of my life. To me, the “bug” is when a person falls in love with something and never gets enough. In my case, it was that round ball. As soon as a kid falls in love with the ball, that relationship can take them a very long way in the game. They always want to be around the ball or become better with the ball or try new tricks. Many parents argue that their child has the “bug” because they go to practice 2x a week and play high school soccer. This is not the “bug” I’m talking about. That is an “amateur bug” if you ask me. My “bug” always has the ball at their feet. My “bug” is always finding ways to play the game of soccer. Whether it’s a 1 v 1, 4 v 4, or 11 v 11, against older boys, girls, or adults, they just want to play. Sometimes it can be as simple as being alone with the ball in their backyard or shooting balls against the garage (my dad was not very happy with that one). This is not just a few times a week. This is everyday, for hours at a time. And if it’s not actually playing out on a field, it could be talking about the game, or following their favorite team, or playing FIFA 11 on the Xbox. Soccer becomes their life.

Now you may ask, how does this make my child a good soccer player? It doesn’t, it will make him/her a great player! It comes down to the amount of time the “bug” puts your child in contact with a soccer ball. The more you play, the better you get. Of course, training 2x a week will make you better, but playing with the ball everyday for hours at a time will make you far better. Parents are under the impression that training 2x a week and 100+ games a year will make my son/daughter better. Not the case. Players need to play everyday. They need to train, but they also need to be able to play freely. Without coaches and parents yelling from the sidelines and minus the structure of tournaments and league games. There needs to be a balance of structure and free play.

We often hear stories of how the great players developed in their home country. How the poor players trained many hours a day with the dream of one day overcoming poverty for him and his family. All great stories and in many cases the motivation for many of these players. However, we also need to realize that part of the reason these players became great is because they had nothing else to do in the little town. There were no video games, and for many no television. All these kids have is the game of soccer. These kids spend countless hours playing in the streets, backyards, beach, or courts. Wherever there was space, there was a game. This is the environment that creates the “bug.” It’s not that high school team or college scholarship that motivates these players, it’s the game itself.

I watch my 6 year old son out on the field. I don’t watch him during his training session. I watch what he does after training. When he has the freedom to do whatever he wants. His choice? To keep playing soccer. I have to drag him off the field to go home. Parents will ask me “how did your son become so good?” I smirk because they all must think I take him home and train him for hours at a time. That never happens. And I don’t look at him and agree that he is good or not. All I care about is that he loves to play and if the “bug” has infected him. When he comes home from school, he asks if there is soccer today. If there is, he gets excited. If there is none, he asks if he can kick the ball around while I coach. My rule is no Xbox during the week, however when my son asks to play FIFA 11 everyday, of course, I have to make the exception. Hopefully his mom skips over this part. She hates “bugs!”

I don't manipulate my son so he can be like me. I just want him to love something (THE BUG). If he does, I know that "something" will give back one day, during his childhood and/or his adulthood. Just like the game of soccer has given back to me my whole life.

Enjoy

John Ramos
Director of Coaching and Player Development
Plantation Football Club



John Ramos
Director of Coaching
& Player Development – Recreation & Competitive
Plantation Football Club
www.plantationeagles.com

**** If there's a topic you would like to see discussed, please email your suggestions to ramosport@aol.com with "Newsletter Topic" in the Subject field.**



Plantation FC
www.plantationeagles.com