



TUCSON SOCCER ACADEMY

Southern Arizona's Premier Soccer Program

EXCELLENCE
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT



TSA SEASON BEGINS WITH 8th ANNUAL TSA Kick-off Breakfast

The 8th annual **TSA Kick-Off Breakfast** is right around the corner. This year's carnival-like fundraiser will be held on Saturday, Aug. 22 at Rillito Downs. The entrance fee is just \$5.

More than 1,500 people are expected at this fun-filled event that supports TSA's generous scholarship program, which last year provided nearly \$50,000 in assistance to more than 100 needy families.

The Kick-off Breakfast will honor Supervisor **Sharon Bronson** with the Tucson Soccer Academy "Game Changer" Award for 2015.

Food, games, a silent auction, and of course some soccer, will highlight the day. The festivities begin with the Ann Schmidt Run to Remember at 7 a.m., which is open to runners of all ages. (Information on this 5K can be found at taggrunningevents@yahoo.com or the TSA Website. Be sure to register ahead of time.) Breakfast is served from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The kid-friendly carnival runs from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and scores of tempting silent auction items will be available for bidding at that time, too. The inaugural TSA alumni game will begin at 9 a.m., and TSA teams will be playing in a 4 vs. 4 tournament throughout the morning.

Tickets for the event can be purchased through your teams or at the breakfast on the day of the event. Don't miss it!



TSA Breakfast Aug. 22



Photo courtesy of NewYorkRedbulls.com

TSA Pros

Former TSA standout **Donny Toia's** (TSA '91 Boys Red) professional career continues to blossom. After becoming a starting defender for now-defunct Chivas USA in 2014, he is now playing for the MLS's Montreal Impact after being selected in the off-season supplementary draft. Picking up where he left off last season, Toia moved immediately into the first eleven, starting 14 of the 15 games he has played and logging over 1300 minutes so far this season. ... Former TSA goalkeeper **Luis Robles** (TSA '84 Boys) is having another fine MLS season with the New York Red Bulls. Now in his fourth season in New York, Robles has started all 18 Red Bulls games and has 40 saves. As a TSA player, Luis drove from Sierra Vista three times a week to train with Tucson United/TSA '84

teams for five years. After high school, Robles attended Portland University where he ultimately became a four-year starter. Upon completing his degree, Robles played in Germany for FC Kaiserslautern and Karlsruher FC from 2007 to 2012. In 2009, Robles became the only TSA player to appear for the US Men's National Team.

In recognition of Robles' many achievements and for being such an excellent role model, one TSA goalkeeper from each team will now wear number 31. Well done Luis and Donny!

TSA STRIKER'S CUP TOURNAMENT SLATED FOR SEPTEMBER 25-27

Excitement is building already for the 2015 version of the TSA Tournament, now in its 37th year. This year's tournament, newly renamed the "Striker's Cup", will feature adult competitors for the first time along with U-8 to U-19 boys and girls as usual. Games will be played from Friday, Sept. 25 through Sunday, Sept. 27 at quality venues throughout Tucson including the five fields at Kino Sports Complex, which boasts some of the finest playing surfaces in the Southwest.

Brackets for this first-ever adult tournament include men's *Open*, *Over 38*, *Over 48*, and *Over 55*. For women, there are *Open* and *Over-35* age groups. There will also be *Open* and *Over 35* co-ed groups. The registration fee for adult teams is just \$400 with unlimited rosters:

Registration for all youth teams is available at TucsonSoccerAcademy.com. Fees for the various age groups are listed here.

FEES

- \$425 for U8-U9 (6v6 Format)
- \$450 for U10-U11 (8v8 Format)
- \$500 for U12-U13 (U12 8v8 or 11v11 Format)
- \$525 for U14, and \$550 for U15-U19



ROYAL AUTOMOTIVE GROUP RETURNS AS TSA SPONSOR

Tucson, Ariz.-Tucson Soccer Academy has announced that its partnership with the Royal Automotive Group will continue for another two years. The sponsorship is a huge boost to TSA's scholarship program, equipment purchases and maintenance as well as fields, lights and coach's training.

"Royal Automotive Group and Lexus of Tucson are proud to extend our sponsorship of TSA," said **Neal Weitman**, Lexus general manager. "As a company, we look to align ourselves with organizations that demonstrate quality, success and community. We feel TSA accomplishes all of these. We hope our contribution can further the success of TSA as well as the individuals and teams that participate."

Weitman has been instrumental in Royal's decision to become a principal sponsor of TSA, a partnership that began in 2013.

"This is the perfect marriage," said **Ted Schmidt**, TSA board member. "We could not provide nearly the level of training, fitness and character development to over a thousand Tucson kids without Royal's help. Royal has always been about family and supporting our community. The Lexus motto is "Commitment to Perfection" while TSA's motto is "Expect the Best", so how fitting that Tucson's best car dealerships support Tucson's finest youth soccer program."

In 2013, TSA "broke ground" on the refurbishing of the Ann K. Schmidt Kickin' It Clubhouse at Brandi Fenton Park. Many generous donors contributed to making the Clubhouse construction possible, including Royal. Royal's continued support helps TSA remain Southern Arizona's premier youth soccer organization and one of the best in the state.



TSA Coach Spotlight

Each month the TSA Newsletter will take a look at a new coach in the TSA family. Our first profiled is **Zak Krauss**, a former player at Catalina Foothills High School.

Zak Krauss is back in Tucson and now coaching the '03 Girls Blue, two '07 Boys teams and will be an assistant for '01 Boys Red.

The former Catalina Foothills High player turned Arizona State graduate has returned to the Old Pueblo after coaching the past three years for San Tan Legacy in Chandler. He helped coach two Legacy teams to state titles.

"They are a big club that tries to do things the right way, with the development of players and of people foremost in their goals," Krauss said. "It is not about profit or winning at any cost, but instead it is about providing the best environment for growth and doing what is best for the players and their families. When I knew I was moving back to Tucson, I identified TSA as the only club in town that mirrors that philosophy for me. TSA was the first and only club I reached out to."

"My first impressions have been reinforced," he said. "For example, the TSA Summer Program was provided for the players at next to no cost to their families. Charity is a major focus here as well. Also, I have been very impressed with the coaching staff and the player's attitude and dedication. I think I have been provided an awesome opportunity to do well here and I am looking forward to helping the club grow."

Krauss returned to Tucson after receiving a job offer and is now closer to family and friends. And, oh yes, the weather is better in Tucson.



Zak Krauss



Amy and Todd Garelick Lead FC Tucson Women to Second Place Finish in WPSL Pacific South Conference

FC Tucson Women, Southern Arizona's WPSL franchise, had a banner year under TSA coaches **Amy and Todd Garelick**, finishing tied for second (6-2-1) in the brutal Pacific South Conference. The team was undefeated at home where an average of more than 500 spectators attended each game.

A host of former TSA players played crucial roles in the team's success including **Analisa Marquez ('88)**, **Sam Monahan ('89)**, **Kaitlyn Lopez ('94)**, **Madison Irwin ('95)**, **Madison Kinzer ('95)**, **Laura and Priscilla Pimienta ('95)**, **Shannon Shields ('95)**, **Amber Measley ('96)**, **Jessie Nelson ('97)**, and **Alex Skidmore ('97)**. Monahan led the team in scoring and Marquez anchored a defense that posted five shutouts and allowed just nine goals in nine games. The team was captained by TSA coach **Kelly Kearns**.

Reflecting on the season, Head Coach Amy Garelick now considers her squad to be one of the elite teams in the WPSL:

"Our first season under FC Tucson was a great experience for the entire community, fans, players, and staff. Our team played with heart and courage every game. We had success in the most difficult conference in the WPSL and proved FCTW is a going to be an annual contender for the conference and national championships. That we were able to compete so effectively with a nucleus of players developed here is all the more rewarding."



*If you have an item for the newsletter,
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