



OFF THE PITCH

Chatham United Soccer Newsletter

Chatham, NJ

Inside the Issue



MINI COUGARS

On Friday, October 22nd, dozens of Chatham United players and their families came out to support the CHS Boys & Girls teams for Cougar Night. Some lucky players even got to walk the high schoolers out onto the pitch and help as sideline ball runners. Everyone had fun watching the CHS players and their Cougar Nation fans!



CALLING ALL CAMPERS!

Save the date for a CU camp during Teachers Convention!

- 11/9 & 11/10, 9am-12pm
- \$120 for both days
- 7U-15U
- Directed by Tom Worthington, CUS Director of Coaching

<https://chathamunitedsoccer.org/registration/>



IT'S TOURNAMENT TIME.

Despite the rain, September was an awesome month for tournament play! From Piscataway to Hackettstown, Chatham United lit up the fields. In October, teams are looking forward to another tournament in Piscataway as well as the famed Mount Olive Halloween tourney. We can't wait to see your costumes!!

A WORD FROM THE GAFFER - JON YEE

Hello Chatham United families!

It's been a fun and busy fall soccer season thus far. I am excited to share an update with you all as Chatham United continues to take significant strides along our transformation. Key tenets that serve as our guiding light include improved player training and development, better access to fields and equipment, increased sense of community and socialization in Chatham, and further connectedness to the Chatham High School soccer program. There's a lot to cover here, but I'll do my best to summarize as follows.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT OFFERINGS: Optionality continues to be a principal aspect in our CU approach, as some of our families want "more soccer" while others

want "less soccer". We offer new training options to supplement recreation and travel team sessions with more individualized and technical training as well as opportunities to guest play with other teams. These offerings provide each player with the ability to find the balance that is right for them; whether a multi-sport athlete, all-in on soccer, or somewhere in between.

Further building on our player development offerings, this fall we have launched our CU Academy which extends the historical 8U TDP program across 6U, 7U, and 8U along with our new Jr. Academy (3-5 year olds). This provides children with opportunities to train and prep for travel soccer earlier in their development path all the while staying in

Chatham and playing with friends.

Also, I am pleased to report that our TOPSoccer program for players with disabilities has expanded to over 20 players this season! In our sixth season, CU TOPSoccer sessions continue to be enabled by our incredibly kind and giving group of CHS volunteers who coach our players as 1:1 buddies in a fun and inclusive soccer environment that allows all players to grow and develop their soccer skills. I am so thankful for these amazing students and the parent volunteers that dedicate their time and enthusiasm to make our TOPSoccer program possible.

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A WORD FROM THE GAFFER

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COACHING ROSTER: A refresh of our coaching roster has infused new ideas, energy, and experience enabling us to offer a new mix of training opportunities, including GK training, technical training, and individual/small group sessions. Through DOC Tom Worthington's relationships we have been successful in securing some amazing new coaches while retaining many of our talented CU coaches that have been with Chatham for years (Note: Historically referred to as "trainers" at CU, "coaches" are our paid professionals). We have also made changes to the coaching role will benefit our club through improved visibility and integration across each age group for development opportunities, guest carding, player evaluation, and team formation.

In addition to our CU coaches, after the fall season we look forward to welcoming Chatham High School Varsity coaches Anthony Correale (CHS Girls) and Mark Maka (CHS Boys) who will further support our players' development by co-coaching our older Middle School teams. I am so thankful to have this level of engagement from our CHS coaches and look forward to further opportunities to help our players prepare for high school soccer.

PARENT MANAGERS: The role of the Travel PM continues to evolve as we attempt to reduce the workload placed on our PM volunteers. With further centralization of the financial function, there no longer is a need to set up a separate bank account, work with a treasurer, and manage core team finances at the team level (this was the case for 11U-15U teams in the past). In addition, the club has organized two fall tournaments per team to provide a base-level experience for all teams. Unless the team chooses to sign up for additional tourneys, the PM will no longer have to seek out and register for other events.

One shared PM/coach responsibility which I am aware continues to be a bit of a burden is handling game cancellations, rescheduling/ relocating practices, and dealing with field closures. Our board is actively exploring next steps to mitigate this. Our recent string of rainy weekends has only emphasized this challenge needing to be addressed.

FIELDS AND EQUIPMENT: The flip side of the coin to all this rainy weather is that our grass fields are getting plenty of hydration! In addition, scheduling the

majority of travel practices (and a larger number of games) on turf has massively reduced foot traffic on our grass fields. Some patches of grass still need some TLC around town but overall, I have to say that I can't remember when our Chatham grass soccer fields have ever looked this good!

Even so, with known challenges around cancellations/rescheduling/weather (compounded by the lack of evening lights) we are actively exploring alternative field options. For the fall season we have contracted with Oak Knoll School to leverage their turf field in Chatham for added game capacity and have recently started scheduling games at this location. The spring season will bring new field capacity challenges and we will continue to seek additional field capacity.

Some additional equipment upgrades you may have noticed around town include new goals at Shepherd Kollack utilized for our recreational and academy programs and new nets and goal weights at various other fields. And thanks to our Chatham Township DPW, we now have new backstop netting installed at Upper Esternay.

We currently have many amazing volunteers wearing different hats on our CU board and operational committee. Fields and equipment is an area where we could use some additional volunteers to pitch in. No soccer knowledge required! Please email ChathamUnitedReg@gmail.com if you would like to help out.

CHATHAM COMMUNITY: As part of our goal to further build upon our soccer community in Chatham and drive connectedness to the Chatham High School soccer program, we have taken a number of measures, including: 1) hosting a CU booth at Fishawack with soccer activities and games for kids; 2) marched in the 4th of July parade; 3) players volunteer as ball runners for CHS games; 4) player escorts and cheering sections at Cougar Night and Senior Day; and 5) ongoing publication of our "Off the Pitch" newsletter!

On the social media front, please follow us on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/chathamunitedsoccer/>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/chathamunitedsoccer/>) to see intros to our new coaches, hear about upcoming training opportunities, and view CU news updates and fun soccer activities and events.

One thing you may have also noticed is that we have scheduled our travel practices side-by-side at Shunpike turf to optimize opportunities for our players to develop sharper technical skills, scrimmage with other teams, and provide our coaches with greater visibility across each age group. In addition to the player development benefits, since we are all at the field together, it has been so enjoyable to spend time at the field running into friends and neighbors in our soccer community. So much fun!

PRACTICE WITH PURPOSE, PLAY WITH PASSION! Another new addition to CU this fall is our training shirts, which I love seeing all over town! The shirts have a mantra printed on the back for our children to take with them into training: "Practice with purpose, play with passion". These shirts are intended to serve as a simple reminder that while soccer is a fun activity, we also participate to learn the game, focus on the task at hand, and seek ways to improve as players and people... which ultimately prepares the individual and the team to discover and experience those special and beautiful moments in soccer and in life.

This is now my tenth year volunteering with the club and this fall Chatham United feels different. With our amazing team of energized parent volunteers, the professional experience and relationships brought by our new DOC, and our incredibly talented coaches we continue to drive massive changes. It's hard work, yet so fulfilling to see the progress we have made together over a short period of time. I sincerely hope our Chatham United families are feeling the positivity in the changes we are making. I thank you for your patience and commitment to Chatham United as we forge forward. If you see me hanging around one of our soccer pitches, please do feel free to stop by and say hello!

Go Chatham United!
Jon



CAPTAINS CORNER

An interview with CHS Boys Team Captains, Owen Irish & Bryan Javello



Owen Irish playing for CU

Player Profiles

Owen: #4. I'm a Defender for CHS and play the Center-Back position. Sometimes I move to Center Mid, but defense is my passion.

Bryan: #30. I'm a righty Center Back.

What was your favorite memory of playing for Chatham United or youth soccer?

Owen: I played at Chatham United for many years. My favorite memories are from the Halloween tournaments. They were always so much fun. And Coach Eddie; he was my coach for many years and taught me so much.

Bryan: My favorite memories of playing soccer as a kid were just playing games over the winter in my coach Billy Walsh's yard, in a hockey rink style field.

What's your best advice for younger players?

Owen: Practice, practice, practice. It will make you a better player. And have fun!

Bryan: My best advice is just to get out and play. If you love the game, which I'm sure you do, it won't be hard to just find 30 mins to an hour each day to just get on the ball, or pass with a sibling. Quite simply, the more you play the better you will get.

What are you most looking forward to this season?

Owen: We have a really tough schedule. Our goal is to qualify for the State tournament, which we missed last year. and to enjoy every minute with the team. We practice a lot and have tons of team meals and get-togethers.

Bryan: I'm most looking forward to winning as many games as we can and hopefully bringing some hardware back to Chatham. We have a great group who are sure to make some things happen this year.



Dates to Note for Chatham High School Soccer

10/11, 4pm @Haas: Girls Varsity 2nd Round County playoff game

10/18, 4pm @Cougar Field: Boys Varsity Senior Day game

Link to [Download "AS Mobile" App](#), with quick access to CHS Sports Schedules

Link to [Chatham High School Sports Schedules](#)

VOICES FROM THE PITCH



Hard hitting questions, answered by your favorite players.....



What's your favorite pre-game ritual or meal?

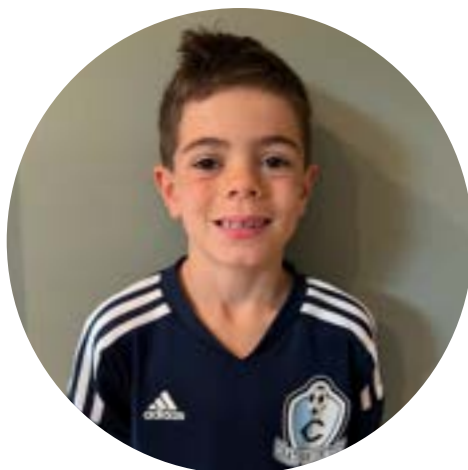


"I always have a granola bar before a game...it's my go-to energy snack." -Owen

"Buttered pasta, and a banana." - Bryan



"Stretching and dribbling drills."
-Abby Meise



"Practicing passing with my teammates."
-Andrew Sullivan



"Listening to warm up music."
-Patrick Walker



"Eating a Snickers bar and showing up early for extra warm up time!"
-Liam Kay



"Screaming our Comets cheer as a team! "
-Emilie Lockwood, Juliet English and Mallory Fedyna

CUS HOLIDAY SPIRIT WEAR



SHOW YOUR TEAM SPIRIT AND
GET YOUR GEAR TODAY!

SHOP CLOSES OCTOBER 15, 2023

[LINK TO SPIRITWEAR STORE](#)

CU PLAYERS & GEAR SPOTTED "IN THE WILD"...



MAS CAR LINE



WHEN YOUR 3-YEAR OLD
WANTS TO REP CU, TOO....



SBS & WAS BOOKFAIRS

SEPTEMBER PHOTO DUMP #1



RECREATION



COUGAR NIGHT

SEPTEMBER PHOTO DUMP #2



WOLVES



KNIGHTS
AT NIGHT



MENACE

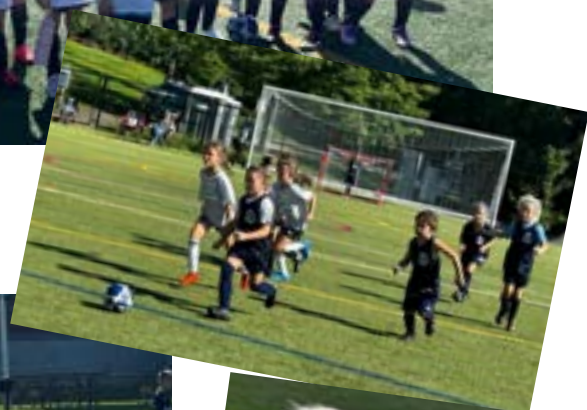


GOALIE CLINIC



PISCATAWAY TOURNEY

SEPTEMBER PHOTO DUMP #3



ACADEMY



JUNIOR ACADEMY

STEPEMBER PHOTO DUMP #4



RAINY DAY WARRIORS - BOTH PLAYERS & PARENTS!

