

# Vestavia Hills Soccer Club

Vol III, Issue II  
Fall 2011



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FALL 2011



# Letter from President Jimmy Brown

Now that we are back in the swing of things for the Fall, let me take a minute to update you on a couple of great things going on at VHSC. First I want to highlight the growth of the club despite a still struggling economy. From the 4-year-old Mini Kickers, Recreational to Competitive Teams, our recent ACT Class for our College Bound Athletes, our growth as a club is a direct reflection of the quality product we provide in developing players on and off the field at all ages. It's great to see all the new faces around the Club, from players to parents and coaches.

Another huge highlight for the Club is the new Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex. This new complex has provided the much needed space for our club to grow. A huge thanks goes out to the City of Vestavia Hills for providing a State of the Art Facility for our kids to play.

There are two events in October that each of you need to mark your calendar for... The first is our 4th annual Socctoberfest October 29th. We will have a two mile fun run and many other exciting events for the entire family. Second is the 5th Annual SoccerBall on Saturday Night October 29th. This is a casual night of fun for the parents and coaches, with food, drinks, a bocce ball tournament and a silent auction to raise money for our Financial Assistance Program. These are two great opportunities for the VHSC Family to get together, have fun and show what makes VHSC such a special place. Thanks to each of you who have chosen to play or chosen for your children to play soccer at VHSC.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Brown  
President



## Sponsor Highlight

Alabama Bone and Joint Clinic was formed early in 2011 by our four orthopedic surgeons Darryl Dykes, Michael Gerhardt, Lloyd Johnson, and Chad Mathis. They have been working here in the Southern Birmingham Metro for many years and now have formed

their own group. Their focus is on taking care of the entire family young and old for orthopedic problems. Alabama Bone and Joint Clinic specializes in all weekend warriors, serious athletes, work injuries, joint replacement and spine.

# RECREATIONAL PROGRAM UPDATE

## CENTRAL

The Fall season has been a great success. We have 144 U6 Players (boys and girls, 18 teams total), 60 U8 Boy Players (6 Teams), 56 U8 Girl Players (6 Teams), 19 U9 Boy Players (2 Teams) and 18 U9 Girl Players (2 Teams). At the beginning of the season, we replaced all of the U8 goals (8 total) with brand new goals and added 8 new U6 goals. The U8 games are held on Friday nights and the U6 games are held on Sunday afternoons. The U9 teams play in the MARS League against other area teams. We have team training with professional trainers on Monday nights for U8 and U9 teams. The weather has been pretty good and the soccer has been even better over at Central this season. As we wrap up the season, the U8 all-star teams are getting ready for Socctoberfest and the Pele Invitational Tournament. We have 23 boys and 22 girls on our all-star teams. If you have not experienced VHSC soccer at Central yet, please come join us for some great soccer and fun at Central in the Spring.

### Central Team Update -VHSC U9 Manchester United



**Head Coach** Bruce Ovitt

**Assistant Coaches** John Johnson and Brooks Gant  
**Players** John Johnson, Bruce Ovitt, Brooks Gant, Tyler Walley, Audey Stein, Jake Ovitt, Jake Johnson, Conor Bodkin, Isaac Obermiller, Kia Barnett, William Gant

The VHSC Manchester United Team is one of our recreational U9 teams from Central. Their team consists of 1/2 U9 players and 1/2 U8 players that are playing up in U9. They started the season in the second division of MARS League. They compiled a 3-1 record during their first four games. During the season, the club needed to make a change for one of the VHSC teams in the first division. Manchester United made the swap from the second division to the first division. The Club appreciates this team, the parents and Coach Ovitt for making this change mid-season. Their games had to be rescheduled for the remainder of the season, which was not an easy task. This was a big step for everyone involved with the Manchester United Team and the boys deserve a big round of applause. To show how much the club appreciated their effort, we had a pizza party after a friendly match at Liberty Park on November 5th.

# RECREATIONAL PROGRAM UPDATE

## Central Player Spotlight: Player: Julia Gill

Julia plays U8 soccer at Central. She plays for the Pink Panthers coached by her Dad, Steven Gill. We have over 250 kids playing soccer at Central this season. The Central field is maintained by the City and supported by the soccer club, and is located behind Vestavia Hills Elementary-Central. The Rec program at Central feeds lots of great players into our U9 and older programs at Liberty Park.



- 1) What team do you root for in the Women's World Cup? USA
- 2) Who is your favorite soccer player? Hope Solo, Mia Hamm or someone like that. Hope Solo
- 3) How long have you played soccer at VHSC? Since I was 4.
- 4) What other sports do you play? Swimming. I also take ballet, jazz, and clogging.
- 5) What school do you attend and what grade are you in? I'm in 2nd grade at West.
- 6) What do you like to do when you are not playing soccer? I love to paint, listen to music and do flips on our trampoline.
- 7) What is your favorite part of playing soccer at VHSC? Making new friends, scoring goals and watching my dad wear pink socks.



# RECREATIONAL PROGRAM UPDATE

## LIBERTY PARK



**The Fall 2011 Recreational Soccer Season** has been a huge success in Liberty Park, with over 300 players and 30 teams ranging from Minikickers (3-4 yrs old) up to Under 16. While the VHSC recreational program relies on parent/volunteer coaches, particularly for the younger age groups, this year we have 5 VHSC trainers and coaches working with a variety of age groups. This commitment to excellence for the recreational program is reflected by the Liberty Park Di-

rector of Recreational soccer, Robert McCullumsmith. In his second year as the LP director, Coach Rob on a typical week is at the fields 4-5 days a week making sure that all elements of the program, including practices, games, goalie training, and skills training sessions are running smoothly. Coach Rob states "The recreational program is a top priority for the community and the club; our goal is to offer the best product to all levels of players, and it all begins on the recreational side."

**Fall Recreational Family profile:** Marcello, Monica, Gastón, and Julia M. Gastón and Julia, play for U8 and U14 recreational teams at Liberty Park, respectively. Marcello and his wife Monica are



from Argentina. Marcello is a volunteer coach for the U9 Boys River Plate recreational team. Marcello says "Soccer has been a passion in my family for at least three generations, and we are lucky that in Vestavia Hills Soccer Club we can keep, grow and pass this tradition to our son Gastón, that he was born with a soccer ball under his feet, and to Julia that she discovers her new passion for soccer here in Alabama. Everybody know that sports are excellent for your body and mind; what we have just found out is that soccer is also a great way to become part of a community, or at least that is the way we feel since we started practicing in this club at the beginning of this season. I am very thankful to the U9 players every time they stop me, anywhere, and just say with a big smile: - 'Hi coach!' I think they don't realize how much this simple act can ease the experience of being new in

town. And I am also thankful to the parents for showing their support! My family and I feel very proud as members of Vestavia Hills soccer club 'where families play,'"

# RECREATIONAL PROGRAM UPDATE

## Coach Justin Marshall and the U13/U14 Co-ed VHSC Barcelona



**Fall Recreational Team Profile:** The U13/U14 VHSC Barcelona team is a co-ed team made up of 12 young men and 3 young women that span 2 age groups. These hearty souls are coached by Justin Marshall, who is in his second year with the VHSC as a professional trainer and coach. Barcelona recently accounted well for itself in a hard fought double header versus 2 very talented teams from Opelika. Barcelona trains twice per week with VHSC trainers, and plays its home games at the Liberty Park soccer complex.

## Coach Chad Varacella and the U15/U16 VHSC High School Boys



# SocctoberFest

October 29, 2011

SOCCERBALL

2011 SOCCERBALL - OCT 29 @ 7:00 PM

**DOORS OPEN @ 7:00 PM!**

**ENDS AROUND 11:30 PM!**

**ADULTS ONLY!**

**THAT'S RIGHT FIND A BABYSITTER!**

**CATERED BY PINCHES TACOS!**

**SPECIAL GUEST DJ!**

**BOCCE BALL TOURNAMENT!**

**GREAT ITEMS FOR BIDDING!**

**FUNDRAISING FOR A GREAT CAUSE!**

**The Kress Building**

*301 Nineteenth Street North*

*Birmingham, Alabama 35203*



***PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR PREMIER FUNDRAISER  
DOWNTOWN AT THE KRESS BUILDING!***

Soccerball is one of the Club's Major Fundraiser Events to help benefit those players who are in need of assistance.

The Soccerball is packed full of fun, great food, a great atmosphere and it's own Bocce Ball Tournament

Teams have contributed awesome Team Baskets for the Silent and Live Auction

Teams also donate auction items for the Live Auction that is always a lot of fun as contributors battle over the cool baskets and auction items available!

The Bocce Ball Tournament is gearing up to be one of the most competitive in years to come! Defending Champion and Executive Rocky Harmon is heavily recruiting a strong squad of experience veterans! Test your skills against the defending Champ!!

# Fourth Annual Socctoberfest Set for October 29th!

Join us Saturday, **October 29th**, for a fun filled day at the **Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex**. Please help us welcome our new sponsors: **Encore Sports Medicine and Alabama Bone and Joint Clinic!**

Featured events are the **Two Mile Fun Run, Tots Trot, Giant Slides, Bouncy Bounces, and much more!**

Come watch the Academy World Cup, two exhibition matches, and enjoy face painting, music, and fun for the whole family.

## **SCHEDULE:**

**8:30 AM Two Mile Fun Run** - anyone can enter, and walkers are welcome!

**9:30 AM Academy World Cup Begins!**

**9:30 AM Pele All Stars!**

**9:45 AM Wellness Symposium** with Marc Bernier\*

**10:00 AM Tots Trot** - open to all runners 7 and under

**10:30 AM Mini Kickers!**

**12:00 PM Exhibition Match #1:** VHSC Staff Coaches vs. Steamers 94 Black

**1:00 PM Exhibition Match #2:** VHSC's Women's Team vs. Attack 95 Black

**2:00 PM Masters Match**

**ALL DAY Inflatable Fun!** Music, Face Painting, Cotton Candy

All of the events are **FREE** to everyone except the Two Mile Fun Run (\$15), and all Fun Run participants get a Socctoberfest T Shirt (excellent design!).

All competitive players are required to participate in the Fun Run, so each team will be billed per the number of players on your team. No need for competitive players to register- just show up, and run!

All proceeds go to the **Pass It Forward** program and everyone gets a Socctoberfest 2011 shirt.

Recreational players, parents, siblings, and anyone else can register for the Fun Run online at [www.vestaviasoccer.com](http://www.vestaviasoccer.com)

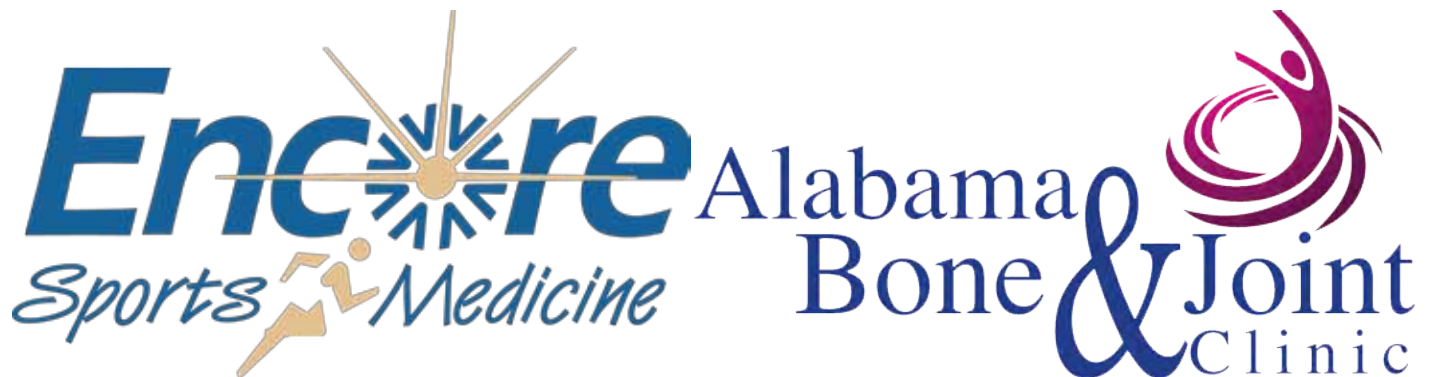
Walk up registration will be available, walk-ups will not be guaranteed a shirt.

**The Tots Trot** (7 and under day of race) is **FREE**, and all registration is walk up. Tots Trot runners do not receive a shirt. Look for more details at [www.vestavia-soccer.com](http://www.vestavia-soccer.com), and make your plans today.

# 2011 SOCCTOBERFEST

HOSTED BY VESTAVIA HILLS SOCCER CLUB

PRESENTED BY



**REGISTER ONLINE TODAY AT  
WWW.VESTAVIASOCCER.COM!**

**Order Your Socctoberfest A4 Jersey - Shirt Today!**

That's right! The A4 breathable jersey-like tshirt is back in black for the 2011 Socctoberfest!

T-Shirt



Front

Back

**www.vestaviasoccer.com**

# Wellness Symposium Oct 29 @ Socctoberfest

**“Youth Sports Injuries: How Do We Keep Our Kids Healthy?”**

Please make plans to join us on Saturday October 29th, for a wellness symposium at the Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex. This will take place during the Socctoberfest celebration, start time is scheduled for 9:45 AM -10:45 AM. The focus will be on the importance of hip and core strength as it relates to lower extremity injuries and the need for proper identification of injuries before they progress to more severe conditions.

Our featured speaker will be **Mark Bernier**, who is a physical therapist and certified strength and conditioning specialist with over 17 years of experience in orthopedics and sports medicine. Marc has served as an international consultant in the field of soccer-specific sports medicine, having developed rehabilitative and performance enhancement programs for professional soccer players in the United States, South America and Europe, including 4 participants in the FIFA World Cup.

There is limited space, to reserve your spot for this free symposium, please goto [www.vestaviasoccer.com](http://www.vestaviasoccer.com) to register today!

# Serra

Nissan  Toyota 

We wanted to give a big shout out to our main sponsor, Serra Toyota and Serra Nissan, who are our official jersey sponsors and a big part of our club's success.

We appreciate all their support and encourage everyone to take advantage of the attached coupon.

## Vestavia Hills Soccer Club Coupon

**Thank you to the Vestavia Hills Soccer Club Families  
for a great fall soccer season !**

**\$ 500.00 off the  
negotiated price  
of any new or  
used vehicle !**



**One Coupon per customer, per  
car deal. Available only at Serra  
Toyota, Mazda, Nissan, VW , and  
Honda in Sylacauga**



# TOURNAMENTS

**December 9-11, 2011:**  
**Collegiate Championship Jr  
Soccer Showcase**

Birmingham, AL  
Competitive Boys Teams  
Ages U13-U16

**February 17-19, 2012:**  
**Crown Cup**

Birmingham, AL  
Competitive Girls and Boys  
Ages U09-U14

**Vestavia Hills Soccer Club to Host the**

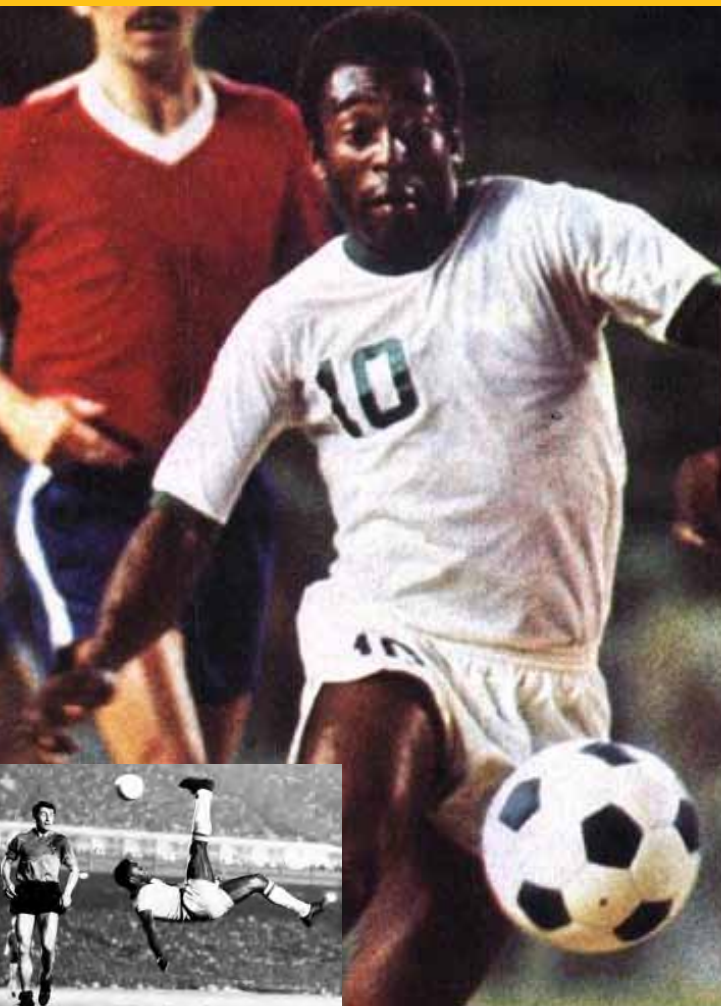


**2011 Collegiate Championship  
Junior Soccer Showcase!**



*All tournament info can be found at [www.vestviasoccer.com](http://www.vestviasoccer.com)*

## PELE PROGRAM UPDATES



Last year, VHSC added a new program under the Academy umbrella known as the Pele Program. The Pele program was the first of its kind in the state of Alabama, giving U9/U10 recreational players a chance to train and compete under experienced VHSC coaches. In the program's first year, VHSC was able to establish two teams for both the boys and girls sides which competed up a year (U10s playing U11) in both the MARS and AYSA leagues, both having remarkable success.

This year, the Pele program has grown tremendously by adding U9 teams alongside our U10 teams. Currently VHSC has 3-U9 boys teams, 1-U9 girls team, 2-U10 boys teams, and 2-U10 girls teams. In addition to the Pele teams, VHSC has also created the Pele Juniors program. The Pele Juniors are current VHSC recreational players who train once a week alongside Pele players. This program gives rec players a chance to see what the competitive training environment is like and prepare those players to join teams in the near future.

Any recreational players who are interested in joining a Pele team or the Pele Jrs Program (U9 & U10) please contact

**Technical Director A.J. Adcock**

[ajadcockvhsc@gmail.com](mailto:ajadcockvhsc@gmail.com) or call 205-541-5528

# IMPORTANT DATES & CALENDAR

- DEC 05:** Registration will open December 5th  
**FEB 09:** Registration will end Feb 9th  
**FEB 17-19:** 1st Annual Crown Cup Tournament  
**FEB 20:** Recreational Practice starts Feb 20th  
**MAR 02:** U08 Games start March 2nd  
**MAR 04:** U06 Starts March 4th  
**MAR 10:** Mini Kicker's Central starts March 10th  
**MAR 11:** Mini Kicker's Liberty Park starts March 11th  
**MAR 31:** Central Spring Fling  
**APR 28:** Mayor's Cup & Mini Kicker's Central Ends April 28th  
**APR 29:** Mini Kicker's LP ends April 29th  
**MAY 04:** U08 Games End May 4th  
**MAY 06:** U06 Ends May 6th

*\*dates subject to change, please check [www.vestaviasoccer.com](http://www.vestaviasoccer.com) for details*

## WINTER CAMPS & TRAINING

### ***Mommertz Soccer Academy***

Camps and Training begin early December 2011 thru until February 2012!

Camp and Training Include  
Age Groups U09 thru U15+

Integrated Training With  
D1 Performance Training  
[www.d1birmingham.com](http://www.d1birmingham.com)

### ***New! FUTSAL LEAGUE***

Mommertz Futsal League @ D1 -  
Begins in December 12 thru February 12  
Ages U09-U14: Saturdays and Sundays  
Adult League: Mondays thru Sundays

Check [www.mommertzsoccer.com](http://www.mommertzsoccer.com) for details!

[www.mommertzsoccer.com](http://www.mommertzsoccer.com)

## ADULT LEAGUE ANNOUNCED!

### ***LA LIGA BIRMINGHAM!*** ***New! ADULT LEAGUE!***

#### ***Men's and Women's Divisions!***

Division 1 - Open  
Division 2 - Over 30s and D2 Teams  
Division 3 - Women's Division

***FIRST GAMES JANUARY 8, 2012!***  
***Registration Opens November 2011***

Look out in January to get your team a game or two for free to test out the turf!

All games played at the State of the Art  
Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex (Turf Fields!)

Check [www.vestaviasoccer.com](http://www.vestaviasoccer.com) for details!

[www.vestaviasoccer.com](http://www.vestaviasoccer.com)

## Steamers 95 Black - R3PL Champions!



For the first time in club history, a Vestavia Hills Soccer Club team has won Region III Premier league Central. In fact, it's only the second time in state history that a team from Alabama has taken the title.

With 19 points on a 6-2-1 record in RPL play, the Steamers edged Midsouth FC Blue (17 points), a team the Steamers had defeated earlier in the season 5-0. Still, it wasn't until the final weekend before things were sorted out. With a 2-0 win on Saturday against Arkansas Nike Rush 95 -- and a Midsouth victory over Louisiana -- the Steamers clinched the club's first RPL title.

For the season, the Steamers 95 have compiled a 13-3-3 record, recording ten shutouts, eight games in which they've scored four or more goals, and an average goal differential of 2.42 goals per game.

The Steamers enter State Cup as a strong contender to take their second state title. In December, it's off to Raleigh for the highly competitive CASL showcase tournament and then it's back home to Birmingham to participate in the 2011 Collegiate Championship Soccer Showcase.

# PLAYER SPOTLIGHT



This newsletter's Player Spotlight shines on Vestavia High School senior Jack Hopkins, a midfielder on our u18 Steamers 94 Black. The 94's are enjoying a great fall, currently 14-1-1 and ranked 5th in the country. Says coach Rocky Harmon "Jack has been lights out for us this fall - scoring, assisting, defending - he has been the jack of all trades, so to speak."

Jack has enjoyed a stellar high school campaign as

well, scoring 59 goals and 31 assists in his first 3 years on varsity at Vestavia High School. Off the field, Jack's 3.95 GPA is indicative of his overall work ethic. Jack has been a Steamer since 2002, when his family relocated from Atlanta. Since winning State Cup for the first time since U12, the team has gone on to win high level tournaments, make a run all the way to the Regional Quarter Finals, and are currently 2nd in the Region Premier League.

Jack has verbally committed to a soccer scholarship at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. Congratulations to this fine student athlete and Steamer lifer.

# COACH SPOTLIGHT

Coach Colby is a recreational trainer fixture, having worked for the club for the last six seasons. A former Alabama ODP 'Keeper, Michael is currently helping us with Team Training on Mondays at Central, Tuesdays at Liberty Park, as well as running Recreational Skills and 'Keeper sessions on Thursdays. He was a standout keeper at Trussville High School and later was the 'Keeper trainer at Hewitt High School. He and his wife Erica have a a six year old daughter named Haley, and a 11 month old son named Hudson. We would like to thank Michael for all he does for our recreational players and teams.



PHOTO PICK 1 OF THE SEASON CONTRIBUTED BY © TREY MURPHY, UNTITLED



PHOTO PICK 2 OF THE SEASON CONTRIBUTED BY ... AND UNTITLED



# PHOTO GALLERY



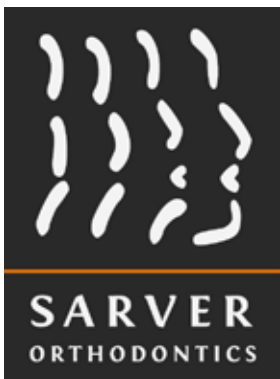
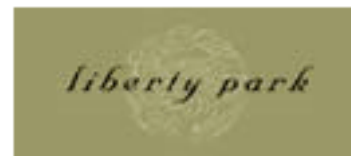
# PHOTO GALLERY



*A special thanks to our Sponsors...*



Always on.™





P. LAUREN SAVAGE, JR., M.D.

52 Medical Park Drive East, Suite 115 Birmingham, Alabama 35235

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**Alabama Ortho, Spine & Sports,**  
providing excellent patient care to soccer  
players...

and their crazy fans.