

MARCH 2024 | ISSUE 1

# THE CROSSROADS

Official newsletter of Crossroads Soccer Association



## CROSSROADS 2024

Our opening weekend of Spring season is in the books, and we are so excited! Celebrating our 30th year, is there anything better than the smiling faces of our kids as they compete in this beautiful game?

This season, we are bringing more family engagement to the Crossroads Newsletter! We're looking to spotlight our incredible member base, including players, coaches, referees, and volunteers. Each newsletter will cover Recreational, Academy, and Classic programs, and much more.

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## SPRING REC 2024 UNDERWAY!

This past Saturday saw our near 60 teams kick off their seasons! With the fields beginning to gain their beautiful green color back after winter, there's nothing better than seeing the white lines of a soccer field just waiting for our players to take place for the ultimate fun competition!

The blue and gray army of soccer hungry children took over Johnny Downs and we love more than anything else to have a packed house at the complex. Many will have noticed our first phase of improvements being made to the complex around our main buildings. Now that our concrete slab has been extended, we'll soon start work on a covered area that will provide additional shaded space for families to hang out in between kickoffs. We want to thank our generous private community support for helping to make this happen, and the City of Alexandria for agreeing to allow us to make these additions.

Want to have a chance for your child to make the newsletter or our website? Please submit any and all photos to our club email below:

**[photos@cenlasoccer.com](mailto:photos@cenlasoccer.com)**







## TOTAL SOCCER ACADEMY

Our Total Soccer Academy program exists for players with peaking interest in the developmental aspect of the game. By providing additional practice opportunities, licensed coaches, and a structured curriculum, we believe that the Academy is essential to growing the soccer culture in Cenla.

With twice the practices and touches on the ball, Academy is the precursor to the Classic program. With an emphasis on player development over game results, our players will be prepared for the competitive environments required for LKR team members.







# AEX – NEWSLETTER

## LOUISIANA KREWE RUSH

### 2024-2025 SEASON PLAYER PLACEMENTS ANNOUNCED

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Louisiana Krewe Rush (LKR) has recently announced the dates of player placements for the 2024-2025 season. While it may appear early to get these dates out, we know how important it is for families to prepare. Players with a 2013 or 2014 birthday will complete placements on April 22-23. Players born between 2006 and 2012 will tryout on June 3-4. Please follow our social media platforms for more information throughout the season.

#### Lafayette Recap

Several of our teams were in action this past weekend at the Courtesy Cajun Lagniappe Tournament in Lafayette. The teams did extremely well, highlighted by the 2007B team who went undefeated and conceded zero goals on the way to a first-place finish. The 2012B team scored 11 goals on their way to their bracket final as well. Despite losing a close match, they played extremely well and continue to display tremendous growth. Elsewhere, the 2006G team picked up a win, loss, and tie, while not conceding a single goal from open play. Offensively, they were led by Reese Morgan's four goal display. With a stingy defense led by Calyn Mangum, providing great leadership and poise on the ball, preparations for their President's Cup semi-final on March 23rd are looking good!



#### From AEX to Italy

The LKR family continues to offer opportunities for the players in our area to grow their game. On Friday, March 8, four players will be off to Italy to guest play with a team from Mississippi Rush. While there, Braylen Burch, Eli Fung, Kale Myers, and Cooper Smith will participate in training and matches with youth teams within several Italian professional clubs. This is an amazing experience for these players to test their resolve and grow their game in an extremely competitive environment, and is one of the many benefits of our relationship with LA Krewe Rush.

#### Player Spotlight – Channing Meche 07B

Channing is a member of the 2007B team and has previously played one season with the GCPL affiliated Central Louisiana FC as a homegrown player. Channing is being highlighted for his two goals this weekend, both game winners, as his team went on to win first place in the Courtesy Cajun Lagniappe Tournament. Channing's coach praised Channing for being a dynamic two-way player, which helped his team keep a clean sheet across four games this weekend.





*"Southern Air is the leading home services company in Central Louisiana because we go above and beyond for every one of our customers. We focus on cutting-edge technical skills AND trustworthy customer service to create the best experience for our community's homeowners. We're your friends and neighbors in this community, and we're here to serve you — not sell you something you don't need."*

## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

We start this newsletter series by highlighting our title sponsor, Southern Air. Southern Air is a proud supporter of Crossroads Soccer Association's programming. You can't miss that polar bear on front of the hundreds of recreational uniforms worn each Saturday! As our title sponsor since Fall 2022, we are grateful for the support of our programming and their commitment to investing in youth sports in Central Louisiana.

As a sport that stays in action all year long, partnering with someone who can take care of our members during every season just makes sense! With locations in Alexandria, Pineville, and Leesville, you can be assured that if you're a part of the Crossroads Soccer family, Southern Air can provide service for all of your heating, cooling, and plumbing needs!

<https://www.southernairnow.com/>

*Call Today*  
318-515-8343



# COACH'S CORNER



Our volunteer coaches are the lifeblood of our recreational program. Without their time and commitment to our 50 teams, we could not provide these playing opportunities for our children.

To ensure the growth and development of our volunteer coaches, Crossroads will continue to provide opportunities including coaching courses and additional individualized resources.

Each newsletter will contain age-specific practice concepts, as well as links to material from experts in professional soccer. We highly encourage our coaches to utilize these resources to create the best possible experience for players while feeling confident and supported in their roles!



## Coaching Resources

- [US Soccer Grassroots Coaching Intro](#)
- [The Ride Home](#)
- [Coaching License Pathway](#)

## Practice Ideas By Age

[U5 & U6 Practice Idea](#)

[U7 & U8 Practice Idea](#)

[U9 & U10 Practice Idea](#)

[U11 & U12 Practice Idea](#)

[U13 & U14 Practice Idea](#)

[U15- U19 Practice Idea](#)

# Miscellaneous Updates

- *Picture Day will be Saturday, March 16th! Our photography partner, Josh Candiloro Photography, will be set up and ready to take your child's individual photos starting at 8:00AM and will be there for all rounds of games.*
- *All you need to do is let them know your child's name, team, and age group! They'll use individual photos to make a team photograph as well.*
- *Make-up day for those who cannot make the first date will be the following weekend on Saturday, March 23rd.*



## Soccer Complex Best Practices

- *Parking Lot*
  - *Please refrain from parking along the side of the road that leads towards the rear parking lot for safety*
  - *Please do not park in front of the main entrance pathway into the complex near the buildings!*
- *Please do not allow children to climb over the fence surrounding the complex.*
- *Alcohol and smoking are strictly prohibited at Johnny Downs in accordance with City of Alexandria policy*

