

FUTSAL 2012



Ellie Kurth 2011 Futsal MVP



Futsal Division Leaders Week 1

WEEK ONE HIGHLIGHTS

A great start to the 2012 Futsal season. Just a few updates and highlights from week one. The reigning 2011 Futsal league MVP Ellie Kurth did not waste anytime to let everyone know that she is back and ready to lead her team to the Cup and lead all divisions with 10 goals. But Bryce Rubel from New Castle is letting people know he is an upcoming young player to keep your eye on (8 Years Old) and that the English Division might be the league to watch as he lead his team with six goals. We had many great performers on the defensive and offensive side of the ball. We have also had some new comers impact their teams right away like new comers from Peoria the Aller family (Jenna, Grant, and Natalie) going 6-0 for the day. On the defensive side we had several great team performances

as well as great goalie play. We had several teams allow five goals and Boca JR. defense was stellar allowing only four goals. But the defensive team to watch with a tremendous team effort came from our youngest division the Major League Soccer Division. The Columbus Crew team work effort was impressive allowing only 2 goals. Great JOB Columbus Crew! But like many times the big European Clubs our buying the rights to our young American players and our Futsal league is no different. After catching the eye of some coaches George Ruker from the Columbus Crew has just been traded to play in the English Division. Stay tuned as there our more trades and signing to be announced.

Once again great first week of Futsal. Please make sure to email me if you

cannot attend this weeks game as soon as possible to be able to get guest players for the games. I will also send the league standing and player awards winners by Thursday. Please take the time to print out and show to the players to keep the excitement going for the Futsal League. If you have any Futsal pictures of the week please forward to me and I will get the pictures up on the website and I would also like to add a couple of pictures to the weekly Futsal League updates.

We at FC America would also like to thank our Futsal League Sponsors. Without their support we would not be able to run our league. Once again thank you very much for your sponsorship!

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Futsal's Growth Welcomed by U.S. Coaches

The United States Futsal Federation's [official website](#) has a bold proclamation about the sport it's dedicated to, calling it "the way the world plays indoor soccer."

Slowly, futsal is becoming the way the United States plays inside, too.

Backed by an endorsement by [U.S. Youth Soccer](#) nationally and [FIFA](#) worldwide, futsal has slowly gained the acceptance of soccer coaches in the United States looking for a climate-controlled alternative to the outdoor game. "For most of the younger players," said **Sam Snow**, technical director of U.S. Youth Soccer, "it's going to be an equivalent to what they're experiencing outdoors."

Futsal didn't always have an American following.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the popularity of leagues like the MISL made Americanized indoor soccer popular across the country--both as a spectator sport and a participation sport. But lacked the support of the world leaders and coaches. Indoor soccer is played on an artificial turf surface with a standard soccer ball, and allows for the use of the outer walls during play--making it similar to [ice hockey](#) in some respects. Indoor players often [use the walls](#) to get past defenders, set up passes or rebound errant shots.

Futsal, meanwhile, generally has a compact playing field (it's often played recreationally on basketball courts), a smaller and less-lively ball, and out-of-bounds lines like outdoor [soccer](#). The smaller area and lack of walls require better ball control, which builds technical skills that translate to the outdoor game. Futsal, meanwhile, generally has a compact playing field (it's often played recreationally on basketball courts), a smaller and less-lively ball, and out-of-bounds lines like outdoor [soccer](#). The smaller area and lack of walls require better ball control, which builds technical skills that translate to the outdoor game.

"It better simulates the outdoor game," Snow said. "It starts off that there are boundary lines like the outdoor game. You have to work a little more as an individual and as a group to keep the ball in play." The other technical impact of [futsal](#) that helps players develop is the weighted ball. Because you're working with a ball that's not as lively and doesn't bounce as much as a regular soccer ball would on that hard surface indoors, you get a little bit more of an opportunity to keep a ball on the ground and learn those individual skills in regard to dribbling, receiving and passing."

Futsal is also called "five-a-side soccer" for its team sizes,

which differs significantly from the 11-on-11 outdoor game. The small, weighted ball does eliminate the chance to practice some outdoor skills like heading.

But for a country mostly stuck indoors during the winter months, futsal is an alternative that's gained acceptance among the United States' soccer leaders. "I don't think it's played as widely as it could be, but it's growing," Snow said. "When you talk to club directors, they're recognizing where they can put it in their calendar for their soccer club and get it used a little more often. While implementing the technical play that is needed to develop the player skills.

"It doesn't have to be just a winter sport that's played indoors. It can be played outside on a tennis court, on a basketball court, a parking lot, you name it. That's one of the great aspects to it. It lends itself to being a pickup game, and that's something we encourage all of our players to do a little bit more of."