

2019-2020 Futsal and Outreach Report, Justin Becht

2020 was a difficult year for the futsal world. Covid shut down most indoor and adult play as well as Indiana Soccer's two biggest futsal events. However, there is a silver lining going into 2021 with the work that has been done with the In-School Futsal initiative.

Vigo County School Futsal - Indiana Futsal partnered with Vigo County Youth Soccer to provide 32 futsal goals and over 100 futsal balls to every elementary school in Terre Haute. PE Teachers from the Vigo County school system participated in a 4-hour US Futsal Grassroots certification course led by Steve Franklin. The teachers were given goals and balls to take back to their school. Through the Outreach department we intend to replicate this model in as many school systems as possible throughout Indiana.

Connersville Futsal was created out of the construction of a public futsal court at Offuts Park in Connersville, Indiana. ODP player and Indiana Soccer member Nolan Shawl helped raise the money and design the court in partnership with the Connersville Parks Department. Indiana Futsal was honored to assist with paint, labor, and expertise.

Garfield Park - Garfield Park Futsal is hosted at Garfield Park Gym and Event Center on the near-south side of Indianapolis. January 2020 the park hosted the first tournament for adult ages consisting of 10 teams. IUPUI Sports Management students volunteered to help run the event.

Hurricane Futsal - Hurricane Soccer Club in Hometown, Indiana began a winter indoor futsal league sanctioned by Indiana Futsal. Over the course of the year the league nearly doubled in participation and looks to expand to a second site. Hurricane Futsal made it a goal to license twice as many futsal referees, mostly youth, in 2021.

Brookside Community Play - The longest running partnered program with Indiana Futsal entered its 6th year of Brookside Community Play Futsal. The winter session was cancelled due to Covid, however the outdoor summer program at Brookside Park was a success. This program provided one of the only structured play opportunities on the eastside of Indianapolis this past summer. In 2021 Brookside Community Play designated a budget to create a referee training program for soccer and futsal that will train and educate teenagers from the east side to become referees.

Arsenal Tech - The resurfacing of the public futsal court at Arsenal Tech was a massive refurbishing project that was spread across seven weeks in September and October. Local artists from Indy 18, Herron School of Art, and Arsenal Tech freshman helped paint, line, and create hand painted logos for the court. Play will resume spring 2021.

Hawthorne Center - The Hawthorne Center is one of the biggest community centers in Indianapolis, located on the near west side. The center has a state-of-the-art gymnasium that is used twice a week for futsal. Elementary and High School programs are free for the community.

IPS After School Futsal - Students from Arsenal Tech, Shortridge, and Purdue Poly-Tech can play drop in futsal at Howe High School for free on Thursdays. In one month, participation has doubled in the program.

La Liga en Cuba / Mi Barrio Suena - Three years after hosting the first “La Liga en Cuba” tournament in Havana Cuba, the program has grown from 10 teams playing at 3 sites to 64 teams playing at 8 sites. Our on-the-ground champion, Edgar Carlos Herrera, has grown his program to unprecedented heights and has been promoted to run the program for Ender, Cuba’s sport’s governing body. Mi Barrio Suena (My neighborhood dream) instills tutoring, community development, and equal access to play in its programs. His organization is the first to host and sanction futsal leagues and tournaments for women in Cuba.

Indiana Soccer Ambassadors - The overall goal of this collaborative project between Ball State University and the state soccer association of Indiana (Indiana Soccer) is to facilitate and assess the effectiveness of the Indiana Soccer Ambassadors program, a 10-month training project. This program is designed to develop Indiana Soccer mentors’ ability to create a peaceful and positive soccer culture that supports the needs of the diverse individuals they serve. The training will include topics like conflict prevention and resolution, implicit bias, transformational leadership, and fostering teamwork, critical thinking, leadership, and community engagement in youth.

Naptown United - During the summer of 2021, an exploratory board of young professionals in downtown Indianapolis set out to create a soccer club that would strategically serve the downtown communities by partnering with local CDC’s. The board settled on the name Naptown United and has support from IPS, Indy Parks, Englewood CDC, Westside CDC, SEND CDC, and Hawthorne Community Center. The board intends on applying for club status in March with the plan to begin play in the fall of 2021. The program will serve three separate locations at O’Bannon Soccer Park, Christian Park, and Graham Edward Martin Park.