

April 29, 2008

**Fredericksburg, VA**-The FC Fredericksburg Gunners and the Fredericksburg Area Soccer Association (FASA) are pleased to announce the formal release of a pending merger between the two organizations. The merger's focus is to establish a new professionally run soccer organization in the Fredericksburg area, committed to taking soccer in the region to a higher level. The merger will strengthen the many positive aspects that both organizations currently offer. FASA presently has over 43 travel teams competing in various youth soccer leagues, a 400+ player ASDL Classic League program, strong community relationships, hardworking volunteers, and a long history rooted in player development. The FC Fredericksburg Gunners are currently second year members of the United Soccer League (USL) and their affiliate, the FC Fredericksburg Generals just finished a highly successful year in the Premier Arena Soccer League (PASL). The Gunners participate in the Premier Development League (PDL) and W-League (W-League), the USL Super 20 Program, and the Super Y League (one of North America's top youth leagues). The Gunners also bring a wealth of club management experience, and its vast resources of professional coaches and players. "What a great step in the right direction," said Pete Cinalli, Coaching Director of FASA, "Our growth over the past 4 years has been phenomenal. Everyone should be getting very excited about the additional opportunities we hope to create. We will now have a system in place for all players to play, train, and aspire to. Whether it is a recreational player transitioning to travel; the travel player taking the next step with Super Y; or an elite player capable of signing with a University and returning home to play with our PDL or W-League teams; these players will have earned that privilege. This is surely the next step for soccer in our area."

"This is a very exciting development for soccer in Fredericksburg," said Brian Shumate, General Manager of the Gunners, "The original goal of the Gunners was to bring a high level of soccer, coaching, and player development, both at the top levels and at the youth levels, to the area. FASA has proven to us that they share the same long term vision and grasp the bigger picture for what types of possibilities are really here for soccer. By working together we can accomplish so much more."

The Gunners and FASA are currently working together to discuss the best way to bring the two organizations together. A new set of bylaws and governance are being reviewed and edited, a budget for the new club is being discussed, and the two organizations are working through other necessary details that will need to be addressed.

"Timing is everything and now is a great time. Both organizations understand the importance of trying to reach some agreement before tryouts so the membership can be informed. The sooner we come together and begin working towards a common goal, the sooner the players will benefit." said Brian Shumate.

"Everyone can expect updates to this as we have information available. I look forward to being able to deliver to the area what we at FASA have worked so hard for. We have fought back from so much and now to be moving in this direction, I am beyond words," summed up Pete Cinalli, "I am simply excited!"

Stay posted to [www.fcfred.com](http://www.fcfred.com) and [www.hotspurs.org](http://www.hotspurs.org) for future updates and information on membership meetings.