

# Alliance's goal: Play more soccer

By Sandra Clark

A new management team, along with renewed commitment from U.S. Cellular, ensures stability and growth at the soccer complex off Dutchtown Road in West Knoxville County.

The company has appointed local soccer club FC Alliance to manage the U.S. Cellular Soccer Complex – a move which should increase public use of the fields.

Knox County has held the ground lease for the 23-acre, tournament-quality soccer complex since 1999. And Doug Bataille, senior director of Knox County Parks and Recreation, said the complex provides recreational opportunities along with economic impact as families and fans travel here for tournaments.

“We hope the complex continues to bring opportunities for instruction, exercise, competition and fun,” said Tom Catani, regional vice president for U.S. Cellular.

“We plan to increase activity and get as many cleats on the ground as we can year-round,” said Randy Denton, president of the FC Alliance board of directors. “Many teams through groups such as Knoxville Football Club, Knox County Middle Schools, AYSO and FC Alliance play at the complex, and we hope that other groups like Knoxville Metro Soccer League also will enjoy using the fields in the future.”

FC Alliance, a nonprofit organization formed through the merger of the Impact and Smoky Mountain Soccer Clubs in July 2008, strives to provide world-class training, an understanding of diversity and a love for the game of soccer.

Since assuming man-



Lee Howell, 11, of Hardin Valley, gets ready to strike during a fall soccer game.



Giovanni Ferron, 10, of Cedar Bluff resident, dribbles through the defense.



Parker Hawk, 11, of Karns, makes a move during a fall soccer game at the U.S. Cellular Soccer Complex.

agement of the complex, FC Alliance has launched a user-friendly Web site at [www.uscellularsoccercomplex.com](http://www.uscellularsoccercomplex.com). It includes a calendar of scheduled events and tournaments, a form to request use of the fields, as well as policies and procedures.

A “Weather and Field Status Hotline” was created to provide timely updates, such as game cancellations due to inclement weather, and can be reached at 256-2642.

“The goal for these fields is more play, improved ease of scheduling and greater use by the community as a whole,” Denton said.

Info or to schedule use of the fields: Allen Fincher at 643-2125.

(Lauren Christ contributed to this report.)

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