

# Hudson Sports Complex

Warwick, New York



Text by Olivier Dumont

HOOK's Series Of Sporting  
Features In And Around  
The Hudson Valley

NYC and Warwick, New York serves as a starting point for many. Whether you form a new relationship or friendship, jumpstart a business enterprise, or experience something else entirely, it is home to a lot of new moments and beginnings that can leave a lasting impact on your life.

This was certainly the case for the Hudson Sports Complex (HSC) in Warwick, New York, a massive sports facility founded by former English Premier League soccer player Christian Fuchs and his wife Raluca.

For Christian, who's an Austrian-born former professional soccer player and now an assistant coach with MLS's Charlotte FC in North Carolina, a significant part of his inspiration to establish a sports complex like this came down to a nostalgic vision he had.

"The reason why I fell in love with this place was I grew up being on a soccer field," said Christian, who signed his first professional contract at age 15. "Being out there, no restrictions, playing around with my friends, that's it. Nowadays it's hard to find a place like that where without worries you can tell your kids to go out and play with your friends. So for me the point was I want to see my kids growing up the way I grew up. Go out on the field, play, no boundaries, and just have fun. That for me, knowing that this could be done with that facility, was the one big factor."

Prior to the establishment of the Hudson Sports Complex in January 2019, Christian and Raluca had their very own Fox Soccer Academy, which included hosting soccer camps in NYC. But renting fields wound up being a complicated conundrum, with the Fuchs' frequently landing on Randall's Island and elsewhere in the city. With a growing soccer academy on one hand yet an inconsistent field renting set up to work around on the other, the Fuchs' quickly realized that they needed something bigger and better.





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"I wanted to be as close to the city as possible," said Raluca, who moved from Romania to New York at the age of 15. "We started looking slowly with a broker and it took us two years to find this place. But I came to the gate and saw that they had two outdoor turf fields that looked unbelievable. I showed Christian on FaceTime, he said 'I want it.' We won the auction, and then I was able to get in and realized that this place is a monster of a place and has a lot more than two fields."

Raluca wasn't kidding. With the Hudson Sports Complex (HSC) consisting of 36 acres with a total of 17 buildings on site, the place offers much more than the two outdoor fields she saw for the first time.

"We have now six fields, three indoor, three outdoor, an amazing field house that has seven bathrooms and locker rooms, I mean that's luxury being so close to New York City," said Raluca, president of the Hudson Sports Complex. "Anything else that we found was just a grass field with nothing else."

Although Christian's full-time position as assistant coach with Charlotte FC keeps him busy, he's very much involved with the players and staff at the complex and is committed to his role as vice president.

"As often as I can, I travel up to be in contact with the players and coaches," said Christian. "We're a young business, we're a small business, and we have to wear a lot of hats to make it successful and that's what we do; that's who we are."

Aside from having a small business structure in place, there's nothing small about the complex itself, more or less, the range of sports services they provide to the public. With a

## HUDSON SPORTS COMPLEX

### Events, Camps, Leagues

#### Mommy & Me at HSC

(Boys & Girls Ages 1-3)  
Every Friday & Saturday

#### Co-Ed Winter Soccer League

(Boys & Girls Ages 16 and Older)  
January 5, 12, 19, 26  
February 2, 9, 16, 23

#### Winter Select Soccer Camp

(Boys & Girls Ages U8-U14)  
January 6 to February 28, 2024

#### Future Foxes Soccer Camp

(Boys & Girls Ages 3-8)  
January 27, 2024 to  
March 2, 2024

#### UPSL Academy Soccer Tryouts

(Boys Ages U12-U17)  
January 27, 2024





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Above: Founders, former English Premier League soccer player Christian Fuchs and wife Raluca with their children.

'first come, first serve' approach, the Hudson Sports Complex receives roughly 7,000 people per week, and not just for soccer-oriented activities and camps, but also for additional sports programs and events as well. "When we opened our doors, I quickly realized that yes, this would be used as a base for Fox Soccer Academy; that was the main reason," said Raluca. "But as soon as I got in here, I

realized that the place cannot be sustained just with us being a base for the academy. So we opened our doors to anyone and everyone who needs a place to play." With the HSC opening over four and half years ago, the business is still young but has blossomed into quite the success story. Though the Fuchs' always look to make improvements and introduce new changes each year,

they make sure to tread lightly when using the word 'expansion.' "Of course we want to expand but we have to do it carefully," said Raluca. "It's just Christian and I, that's it, it's just us. There's no partners, there's no one else that's involved. This is truly a family business. So we can only do what we can do when we can do it." [www.hudsonsportscomplex.com](http://www.hudsonsportscomplex.com) [www.foxsoccer.academy](http://www.foxsoccer.academy)