

Dynamo Sandtown

Dynamo Sandtown FC is a professional football club in Southport, Columbia, Pharos. The Club was founded in 1897 and play their home games in the Sor Arena since 2007.



History

Formation and early success

League football was established in Southport in 1887, when the Columbian Football League was formed, with Southport FC as the sole town's representative. In 1890 several Pharonian-



Jan Brunt

football clubs in the city abandoned the old sport and adopted the soccer rules. By 1894, a team called Southport Sandmen played in the city league for two seasons, but disbanded at the end of the 1895-96 season. On 30 January 1897, Jan Brunt, the editor of the *Southport Observer* and former player and secretary of Southport FC, filed a letter of admission of the club, renamed Dynamo Sandtown, to the Columbian 2nd division, which was accepted.

Dynamo Sandtown were soon promoted to the Columbian 1st division, ousting their arch-rivals Southport FC, who were champions in 1899. Financed mainly from Brunt's newspaper, they became a major force in the Columbian footballing scene, winning their first trophy in 1901, the Columbian Cup,



Dynamo Sandtown, Columbian cup winners 1901



Jonas Spier

by beating St. Albans 3-0 in

the final. They repeated their triumph winning the 1906 Cup as well, beating Dynamo Pharos 1-0.

Their biggest triumph came in 1911. Ral De Camp was manager of the team since the 1906 cup win. He assembled a team of talented players from Columbian south, such as goal scorer Jonas Spier, goalkeeper

Escel van Bueren and midfield wizard Fenel Gravenmar. Dynamo Sandtown finished on top of the Columbian League, unbeaten in 34 games, with Spier scoring 37 goals and van Bueren having 25 clean sheets!



Dynamo Sandtown, Columbian champions 1911

Inter-war years

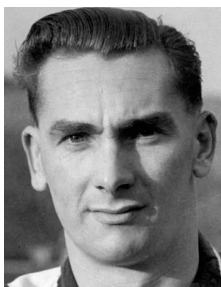
With Spier, Gravenmar and some reserve team players losing their lives during WWI, Dynamo Sandtown finished in mid-table for four consecutive seasons. Also, with several retirements during the war, it was a new-look side that took to the field in 1920. The 15th-place finish in the league was Dynamo's lowest since their first season in Division One, a position replicated the following season. After ten mediocre campaigns in Division One, Dynamo Sandtown were relegated back to Division Two, when they lost all of their final five games of the 1931–32 season.

The club's average attendances dropped to less than 7,000 by the end of the 1920's. New manager Carl Veit missed out on guiding the club to an immediate promotion when they finished sixth, but at the end of the season the players had not been paid and the bank was unable to advance any more money because of the club's overdraft. Had it not been for donations by fans, Dynamo Sandtown would not have started the following campaign.

It went like this for the whole 1930's, with Dynamo Sandtown struggling for promotion to the 1st division, but failing every time. WWII had also an impact on the club, with some players enlisted.

1945-1981

After WWII, Dynamo Sandtown moved to the newly built Southport Stadium and attendances rose. The new Board hired former Kent Utd player Milo Grein as manager.



Milo Grein

Grein, a managerial genius, reformed the broken-down



Southport Municipal Stadium

team into a team of winners, promoting young players from the youth squads and buying some prominent local players who had left for

other teams in the past years, mainly from Beatrix and Royal Vigla. Promotion to the 1st division came in 1950 – 18 years after their relegation in 1932 - and a 5th place in their first



DYNAMO SANDTOWN 1953

Top row (from the left): Don Grein (manager), Rin Prodan, Aki Tenhoffer, Genar Bekel, Preeme Oberbek, Bern Kerem, Verman Lodd, Viennis Broden (chairman). Bottom (from left): Robert Jetz, Alvin Thiel, Don Plum, Emer Kislov, Yate Burg

season in the top division the next season. They were runners-up in 1952 and were crowned Columbian champions next season, their second title after 1911. The team featured stars like goalkeeper Preeme Oberbek, right back Rik Prodan, defensive half Alvin Thiel, center forward Robert Jetz and 21-year-old play maker Verman Lodd. Their participation in the Nationals for the first time did not prove successful, as they finished in the last position of the table.

With Grein leaving for Olympic Trandor in 1955, due to salary disagreements, and many players being transferred for financial reasons, Dynamo Sandtown went again into mediocracy, that lasted until the end of the 1970's. However, when PSL was formed in 1981, the team was elected for PSL 2nd division.

The PSL era and new owner

Dynamo Sandtown played in PSL B division from 1981 to 1987, when the League changed its format to a 24-team closed championship with regular season and play-offs. In 1987-88 they returned to the Columbian Championship, but could not win another title, except for 2 back-to-back ones in 1996 and 1997 (they were overshadowed by Queensland Utd and Beatrix Newport). However, in 1997 they were also crowned PSC National champions as well.

With the first expansion of the PSL in 2004, Queensland Utd and Beatrix were admitted to the PSL 2nd division, but not Dynamo Sandtown, who remained in the local championship. This

resulted to Dynamo Dynamo's supremacy in Columbia, winning 8 out of 9 championship titles until the next expansion of the PSL in 2013.

In 2005 the team shares passed to Pharonian-Icelandic tycoon Aki Laes, who owned a big fleet of tuna fishing boats, both in Southport as in Reykjavik. He proceeded to built a new stadium, buying the area of the old Municipal Stadium from the City of Southport.

Replacing Dynamo's old Southport Stadium which first opened in 1948, the new venue was a marked improvement to the old municipal stadium which featured an athletics track.

Inspired by Lazarus Branca Stadion, the new stadium adheres to UEFA's stadium criteria, and subsequently featured executive seating options and a press section amongst other modern conveniences. Costing an estimated ff 40 million for the entire Sports Complex, the budget unfortunately spiralled out of control. Privately funded by a one of Laes' subsidiaries, the stadium's owners faced financial ruin. This resulted in the creditors, Sor Bank, taking



Dynamo Sandtown owner Aki Laes (left), with team secretary Farel Vinter



Sor Arena

over half of the stadium shares and naming rights for 50 years. Sor Arena has a capacity of 14,300 all-covered spectators.

Dynamo Sandtown were PSC National champions in 2010 and in 2013-14 they were admitted to PSC A division, gaining promotion to PSL B in a play-off game against Estwald Metropolis, with Lathan Netler as general manager. Fielding a relatively young and inexperienced team (average age was just over 24), the team was relegated back to PSC A the next season. The team finished always in the top part of the PSC A table the coming years, but did not gain any promotions. In 2023 they were relegated to PSC B, they came back the next season, but were relegated again in 2025, although having former National team

manager Dewlat Haak at the helm. Seth Belor was hired by Laes to work mainly with players from the youth squads, in order to bring the club back to the top tiers.