

Spring 2018 State Cup Finals Results

VYSA's "Road to Regionals" came down to the final stretch on Saturday, May 19th. Twenty-four teams gathered at the Publix Virginia Soccer Training Center to continue their quest to win the State Cup. The semifinal round was played on Saturday with the winners advancing to the finals on Sunday. The boys and girls from three different age groups produced some extremely thrilling games.

Four teams remained in the under 12 boys age groups on Saturday. In the first match up, Springfield South County Youth Club played Bethesda South Blue. Previously, SYC coach Julian Chang said, *"We are looking forward to a very competitive match against Bethesda South, who we know little about, but heard they are a very good team."* Coach Chang and his boys managed to pull off a 5-1 win over Bethesda, sending them to the finals on Sunday. In the other game, Herndon Estudiantes Black faced Beach FC. Coach Nick Arzani of Herndon led his team into the finals by overcoming Beach FC in a high-scoring game of 6-4. Herndon and SYC played an exhilarating final game with SYC coming out as State Cup Champions of the 12U boys age group.

Nail-biting games were played over the weekend by the under 12 girls age group. The first game in this age group went into overtime with the top-ranked team, Loudoun Red, defeating Virginia Rush Black 1-0. The other semifinal match was the only 12U girls game over the weekend that ended in regulation. Arlington Red defeated SOCA by a score line of 3-0 to advance to the finals. The championship game proved to be a hard-fought battle between Loudoun and Arlington. The game ended 3-2 in penalty kicks with Arlington coming out on top. Arlington coach Gerardo Ramirez is thrilled about his team becoming Champions.

"This group of girls certainly earned the right to play Region I Championship after a thrilling victory in PK's over a quality Loudoun Red team in the State Cup final. A remarkable accomplishment that brings about a great opportunity. As we approach Regionals we will continue to dedicate ourselves to improve all aspects of the game, to be relentless in our effort to learn and grow every opportunity we get, to stay united as we've been and enjoy every moment of it. "

Unlike the under 12 girls, every game in the under 13 boys age group was won in regulation. Nonetheless, these boys competed in some very exciting games. First, the number one seed, Virginia Legacy, edged out a formidable SOCA team by score line of 2-1 to advance. Virginia Legacy met a McLean Green team in the final which advanced by knocking out Beach FC Red in the semis. Legacy comfortably secured their championship win over McLean by a score line of 4-0 in the final.

The under 13 girls age group produced one game that needed an overtime win. That semifinal game was between Northern Virginia Soccer Club and Stafford Revolution. NVSC and Coach Marie Schweitzer came out on top as they secured a 5-2 win. The other semifinal was between Springfield/South County Youth Club and FC Virginia Ashburn, with FCV emerging victorious to

advance to the final. FCV Coach Greg Bryant said, *"We played in the finals last year, but we came up short against a very good Loudoun team."* Coach Bryant's story would be different this year as they beat out NVSC in the final to become State Cup Champions.

Like the under 13 girls games, the under 14 boys also had one game that went into overtime. In that game, the number-one seed, Arlington Red, beat Virginia Legacy 3-2 to advance to the finals. In the other semifinal match up, Lee Mount Vernon faced off against SOCA. That match ended in favor of LMVS who secured their place in the final. Arlington wanted to go into the championship game showing why they were seeded number one. They successfully upheld their standard as they beat out LMVS 2-1 to become State Cup Champions.

Arlington Coach Grant Smith says, *"Our group was so relieved VYSA was able to handle the weather issues to allow our team to play its semi and final on the original scheduled weekend for the state cup. They did a great job getting all the games in. A couple years ago the games had to be pushed back to the first weekend in June. That year our team played in the EDP Spring Cup over Memorial Day and had to play 4 games in some tough conditions. I don't think we were able to recover from that weekend in time to play our best in the state cup finals. Our opponent was LMVSC and they were certainly deserving champs, but they were missing players too because of the change in dates. So, it was tough for both teams. We are really looking forward to representing Virginia in Regionals later this month."*

In the first semifinal in the under 14 girls age group, number-one seed Arlington took on Virginia Legacy. Arlington secured their place in the final by winning that game 3-0. In the other semifinal match, Beach FC was looking to advance to the finals after getting knocked out last year in the semis. They did just that by winning 3-0 over Loudoun. However, Beach FC's run came to an end in the championship match. Mo Tayari's Arlington team took the crown in a close 1-0 win over Beach FC. Coach Tayari is delighted with becoming champions.

"It's always an honor to represent Arlington in the State Cup and we are extremely proud to be the first female team within the club to win back-to-back State Cup Championships. Our preparation for Regionals has already begun as the competition level is very high. We want to represent our state well and it's also a great opportunity to play some excellent teams as we prepare for the Nationals Finals at the end of July."

These State Champions will compete in the US Youth Soccer Regional Championships in June 2018, at the Publix Virginia State Training Center in Fredericksburg, VA, for a shot to advance to the National Championships in Texas next July. The US Youth Soccer National Championship is the most competitive and well-established national youth soccer competition with all 50 states competing to earn the right to be named National Champion. Congratulations again to the winners of this spring's Virginia State Cup Champions!