



VA National Championship Series Semifinal Spotlight

13U Boys

VYSA's "Road to the National Championships" began in early March with over 100 of Virginia's elite teams in three age groups looking to earn their place as State Champions. 24 teams remain and will come together at the Publix Virginia Soccer Training Center on Saturday, May 19th, to play in the semi-final round with winners advancing to the finals on Sunday. State Champions will compete in the US Youth Soccer Regional Championships in June 2018 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*.

The 13U Boys quarterfinal round produced some very exciting and suspenseful games. The number one seeded team has earned their way into the semifinal round, but it wasn't easy for Scott Hines and his **Virginia Legacy CCL Elite** team. They won in overtime by a score of 1-0 over Alexandria 05 Boys Red.

Legacy will face Jason Moore's **SOCA-CHAR Elite** in the semifinal round. Coach Jason's team did not have an easy game in the quarterfinals either. They just squeezed past a threatening Lee- Mount Vernon in penalty kicks by a score of 5-4. Coach Moore noted "The State Cup run this year has been an amazing learning experience for the team. Our quarter final had a little of everything that I'm sure they won't forget anytime soon. Lead changes, penalty kicks in regulations, last second goals and 10 rounds of penalty kicks to decide who advanced. I couldn't be more proud of the way the boys have competed and played together. We're excited for the opportunity to compete against some of the best teams in Virginia and represent SOCA in the final four for the VYSA National Championship Series."

Only one game did not go into overtime or penalty kicks in the quarterfinals. Alan Portillo led his **McLean Green** team past Arlington Boys Red by three goals while keeping a clean sheet. Coach Portillo said "Playing in the VYSA State Cup creates a great atmosphere and range of emotions for each match! The competition has been a great part of the boys' development over the past two years. The State Championship is a goal many teams work all year for but only one can win!" McLean will take on **Beach FC Red** in their semi-final match. Dave Brun's nerves were on edge as his Beach FC boys won in penalty kicks against Loudoun last round.