



## VA National Championship Series Semifinal Spotlight

### 13U Girls

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 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 girls age division has seen several upsets along the way, giving us some unexpected teams in the Final Four. **Stafford Revolution** continues to surprise and advance. After knocking off the top ranked team in the round of 16, they went on to knock off eighth-ranked Herndon in the quarterfinals. Stafford Coach and Director Barry Hill said "I am so happy for the girls who have worked so hard this season. It truly shows that hard work can pay off. Our quarter final match up was tough and we know with each game it will get tougher. The team effort of these young ladies has been superb, I can't ask for more. I am looking forward to the semifinals to keep watching these girls develop and see the girls step up to the next challenge."

Their semi-final opponent, **Northern Virginia Soccer Club** easily beat the SYA Cardinals in their quarterfinal match. NVSC Coach Marie Schweitzer said her "girls have made great strides this season and have shown resilience in every State Cup game thus far. My daughter and assistant coach Nicole and I are proud to have been a part of their positive growth and development over the years."

Third ranked Arlington and sixth-ranked Springfield/South County Youth Club went to overtime to determine a winner. In dramatic fashion, **SYC Phoenix** scored in overtime to advance to the semifinals. SYC coach Fabien Lewis said "We will continue to try and improve with each game we play. We are aware that each opponent in State Cup will be tough and we will try to be mentally prepared."

SYC will be taking on **FC Virginia Ashburn**, last year's Finalists. Greg Bryant, coach of FC Virginia, said "We are excited to advance to the final four. We played in the finals last year but we came up short against a very good Loudoun team. It was a great experience and we return hoping to improve on last year's result. Our semi-final opponent, SYC Phoenix, is tough. We know each other well from EDP league play. It should be a good match. All State Cup participants realize it's an honor to represent Virginia in regional play. It's a big prize and a lasting memory. VYSA does a wonderful job organizing State Cup from start to finish. They really make it a positive experience for our players and families."