



## VA National Championship Series Semifinal Spotlight

### 14U 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 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.

Unlike the 13U bracket, all of the 14U quarterfinal games were won in regulation time. Grant Smith and his number one seeded team **Arlington Red** won comfortably over Southwestern Youth Association Cardinals Red to earn their spot in the semis. Coach Grant will look to ride the momentum into the next round when his team meets face to face with **Virginia Legacy CCL Elite** led by Steve Shaw. Legacy has been running rampant with a tally of nine goals in their past two games. They will not be taken lightly by Arlington.

**Lee-Mount Vernon Patriot Red**, coached by Jose Maldonado, won comfortably by three goals in the quarter finals. Coach Maldonado said "It's been a very exciting experience. Our boys are always excited for State Cup play. It's good to see our boys' hard work over the past few years paying off. We look forward to an exciting State Cup weekend and our boys are ready and excited for the games." He will need to rally his team for a tough semifinal match up as they take on the number two seed, **SOCA Elite**. SOCA edged out a Stafford team that had the highest goal tally of the tournament. This two versus three match-up between SOCA and LMVSC will be a great semifinal match on Saturday.