



VA National Championship Series Semifinal Spotlight

14U 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 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.

Top ranked **Arlington** shut out Fredericksburg FC in their quarterfinal match. They look to build on their success in the semi-finals this weekend. Their opponent is **Virginia Legacy**, which shut out Herndon in the quarterfinals. The game looks to be a great defensive match-up as neither team has allowed a goal against in any game. Legacy coach Shawn Trueblood said "we know Arlington really well from competing in the CCL and they are always well organized and excited to play so there is never an easy game against them. We also know that once you get to this point, no game is going to be easy, so we need to be ready to play at our highest level."

In the other side of the bracket, sixth-ranked **Loudoun Red** took down third-ranked SOCA in the quarterfinals in a great defensive struggle and final 1-0 score. Loudoun coach Ruth Keegan continually tells her teams "We are only as strong as our weakest link". **Beach FC** had to fight off great positioning in the quarterfinals against Northern Virginia Soccer Club to advance with a 3-2 win. Beach FC lost last year in the semifinals and are looking to advance to the Championship match for a chance to become Virginia State Champions.