



Contact: Elizabeth Flannery
Washington Youth Soccer
253-476-2237 (phone)
elizabeth@WashingtonYouthSoccer.org

//FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE//

Eastside FC 94 Red Boys Place Third at US Youth Soccer National Championships
Washington Youth Soccer team misses out on finals berth in narrow tiebreaker

FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON (Mon. Aug. 1) – Eastside FC 94 Red, winners of the Washington Youth Soccer State Championships Under-16 Boys division in June, compiled a 2-1 record to place third at last week’s US Youth Soccer National Championships in Phoenix — the highest level of competitive soccer in the United States.

Coach Daniel Strom’s team, who captured the Washington State Championship in June before overcoming challengers from 14 Western states to win Far West Regionals earlier this summer, were matched up against champions from the other three regions of US Youth Soccer and select wildcards in the US Youth Soccer National Championships, July 27-31 in Phoenix, Ariz.

Eastside rolled through Regionals, allowing just one goal the entire tournament, and they brought that same dominant defense to the National Championships. The team started the tournament strong by shutting out their first opponent — Pennsylvania West’s Beading SC — by a 1-0 score. James Molyneux-Elliott, who also plays for Skyline High School in Sammamish, put up the goal for Eastside FC in the 78th minute, giving the local boys an early advantage in the three-game preliminary round.

After a narrow, 1-0 defeat to Minnesota Thunder Academy on Thursday, the Eastside FC boys came back strong with a 1-0 win against 2010 national runner-up Albion White of Cal-South. During the third game of the tournament against Albion White, it was Molyneux-Elliott again who netted the winner for Eastside FC, as they handed Cal-South their first loss of the week.

The win in the third game left Eastside FC with a 2-1 record and six points at the end of the preliminary round, identical to Albion White and Georgia’s Concorde Fire Elite. Only two teams could advance to the final, however, and on goal differential, Concorde placed first (plus 5) and Albion second (plus 2), leaving Eastside FC (plus 1) to accept a hard-fought third place by the narrowest of margins. Concorde Fire ultimately won the National Championship, defeating Albion White 2-1 in Friday’s final.

“What a fantastic performance and an incredible showcase of the level of soccer being played in our state,” said Technical Director Gary White of the Eastside FC 94 Red’s third-place finish. “Certainly, it’s tough to finish tied for first in the preliminary round and not get a chance to play for the final, but that’s soccer — someone had to be left out, and unfortunately it was our boys. They really left everything they had out there on the field, and should be very proud of all that they accomplished this year.”

For more information about any of these events, or to join a Washington Youth Soccer club, visit washingtoneyouthsoccer.org.

About Washington Youth Soccer

Washington Youth Soccer is the largest youth soccer organization in Washington. Washington Youth Soccer is the state's affiliate for US Youth Soccer, which is the largest sports organization in the United States and the most populous member of the United States Soccer Federation, the governing body for soccer in the United States. Washington Youth Soccer is the sixth largest membership in the nation; our organization represents over 128,000 players (ages 4-19) and their families, 15,000 coaches on 12,000 teams and 6,500 referees in the state of Washington. Washington Youth Soccer's mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of the State of Washington's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition.

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