

US YOUTH SOCCER PRESIDENTS CUP

Little Illini win President's Cup

Chris Janrozy,
Illinois Youth Soccer

The US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup is a competitive tournament for teams and smaller clubs that have not had the opportunity to advance in the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series. It provides an opportunity for teams that may not get the chance to travel and take on competition from other parts of the country.



Based on their play in the 2009 Illinois State Cup, the Under-14 Girls Little Illini Soccer Club were selected to play in the 2009 US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup and took full advantage of their opportunity, winning the Presidents Cup in the U14 age group.

"The girls' play in the President's Cup tournament was very, very good," said Megan Bushue, Little Illini Head Coach. "I was worried with a few weeks off from game competition that we would be a tad rusty, but I couldn't have asked the girls to peak at a better time. The girls were very focused throughout the tournament and extremely excited to finally get the chance to compete at this level."

After winning the first President's Cup Regional Tournament, held June 12-14 in Verona, WI, the Little Illini moved onto the National Tournament in Raleigh, NC from July 17-19.

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Head Coach

In their first game, the Illini cruised to a 5-2 win over the FC Stars of Massachusetts. A second win followed against the Greenville Stars of North Carolina.

Win or lose in their final game of preliminary play, the Illini had secured a place in the Championship match but were still focused heading into game three against Premier FC of Washington.

A hard fought match ended in a 2-1 loss for the Illini but set-up a rematch against Premier FC in Sunday's Championship.

"After coaching this group of girls for the past 5 years, I have learned that a little anger for motivation can take them a long, long way," Bushue said. "This group of kids is extremely competitive and hates to lose. I knew that with a little tactical change, the girls' determination would take care of the final itself."



The Little Illini Soccer Club won the US Youth Soccer President Cup U14 Championship July 17-19 in Raleigh, NC. Congratulations to the following players for their success on the pitch: Kylie Amick, Hope Archer, Jenna Ayers, Rachel Braadt, Kathy Bradley, Jade Brinkoetter, Makenzia Burgess, Janelle Dedic, Marisa Ellis, Haley Hollern, Holly Gregory, Katelynn Martinez, Chantal Meacham, Dagny Olson, Morgan Paintner, Hannah Walker and coach Megan Bushue

Determination and Dagny Olson.

on, we all are."

Olson scored at the 29 and 31-minute mark to give the Illini a solid 2-0 lead before halftime.

"I have said this before in regards to Dagny, but she never ceases to amaze me," Bushue said. "She is a great leader and will do anything she needs to do in order to complete the task at hand. Not only was she finishing much better than the night before, but she was extremely confident and our team tends to feed off of her. When Dagny is

Jenna Ayers added another score for the Illini at the 43rd minute and the defense held strong for the rest of the contest, avenging the previous night's loss and earning the Illini the President's Cup title.

"The President's Cup tournament was a great tournament," Bushue said. "Our team was challenged every single game, and it was great to not only play teams we have never played before, but to play teams from states we have never played before either."

National's Best



Vanessa Laxgang & Erin Dees of the Under-17 Eclipse Select were awarded the Golden Glove and the Golden Glove at the US Youth Soccer National Championship Tournament. The award is for the tournament's most outstanding player and goalkeeper.

Casey Short of the Under-19 Eclipse Select was given the Golden Boot for the Under-19 age bracket.

Referee Information

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