

The Iowa State Cup tournament which is held every fall for girls and boys teams u15 to u18 was completed this past weekend and 2 Iowa Rush teams, the u17 and u18 girls, walked away as State Cup Champions! Also competing in the event were the u16 girls and boys as well as the u15 boys and u18 boys.

Below is a recap on each team.

The **U15 Boys** were knocked out of state cup competition after an 0-3 record in round robin play scoring just 2 goals in the 3 games. Unfortunately the boys were not able to achieve the goals that they had set for themselves for this years tournament.

Head Coach Andrew Rohwer said, "I think the boys need to come back into next season with a willingness to work hard to achieve their goal of advancing in State Cup."

The **U16 Boys** started State Cup by beating ISC 4-2 and Des Moines Menace 5-0 in the first weekend of play. In the last group match they lost a tough contested battle 1-0 to WDMSC. With these results, Rush advanced to the semi-final where they fell to last year State Cup winner CRSA who went on to renew their title this year.

Iowa Rush Head Coach Nuno Ferreira said "I felt our boys performed really well in group play. They got two deserved wins playing some attractive soccer and scoring many very nice goals. In our third match, we lost to a strong WDMSC team, where we competed for most of the match and worked hard to get something out of that game. We entered our semi-final with a few injured players but we still thought we could have a good shot. Our team had a hard time getting settled on the day and in the end CRSA was a well deserved winner. I think that coaches and players left the match feeling that maybe our team was a bit too anxious and didn't quite play to our full potential but CRSA is a strong team and full credit goes to them. Overall we are quite proud of the boys showing and we still have a couple of events left this fall and winter so the goal is to end the season on strong note!"

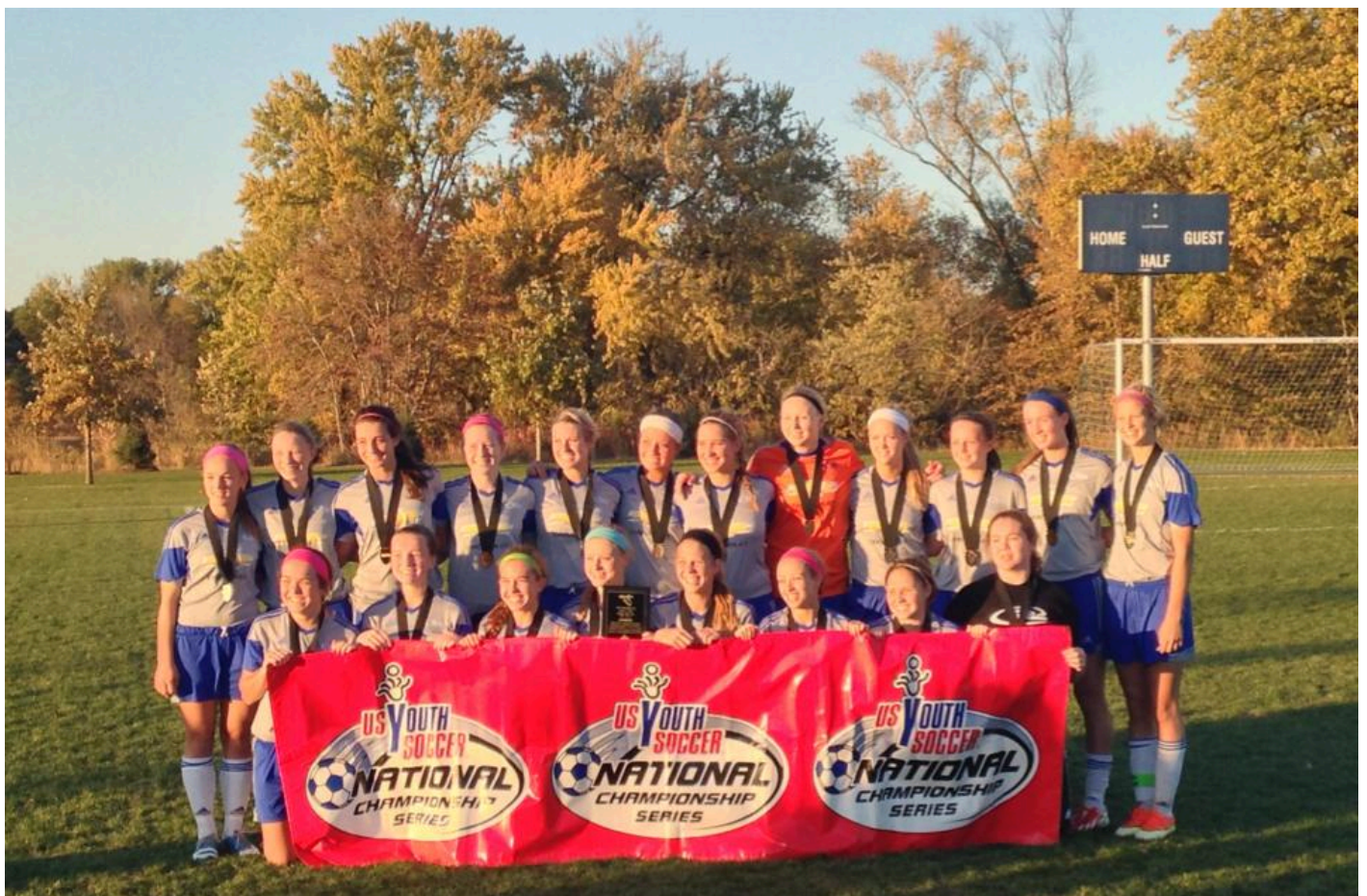
The **U16 Girls** won all their group play matches, beating ISC 3-1, JUSC (former State Cup winner) 1-0 and VSA 2-1. All of these teams were seeded higher than we were to start State Cup so Iowa Rush girls did quite well to get full points from group play. The semi-final was a very tight encounter, Iowa Rush and CRSA were the only two teams with 100% records from group play facing each other. We ended up losing 1-0 to CRSA (eventual competition winner) after having what would have been the tying goal disallowed for offside late in the second half. Iowa Rush U16G Head Coach Nuno Ferreira commented "I feel the girls did quite well throughout the competition. Unfortunately due to a schedule conflict with another team at State Cup, I could not be with the group in their semi final, but from reports I got we pushed a very strong team to their limit and on another day the result could had been different. I know the girls are disappointed as they had their sights higher, but I'm very proud of their showing and I believe this group will work towards being back even stronger next year!"

The **U17 Boys** were faced with playing a qualification match against WDM/JUSC to determine who would advance into group round robin play. Iowa Rush played a complete game and created a number of quality chances but fell short of advancing after recording a 1-4 loss.

Head coach Andrew Rohwer said, "I think for this team to make it to the next level they need to train and play at the same level as they displayed in their State Cup game. There is enough quality

on the team that they can consistently compete at this level in the future."

The **U17 Girls** earned their second State Cup Championship in a row after going 3-0 in group play where they recorded wins against #2 seed JUSC/WDM, PSC and CRSA/ISC. Iowa Rush scored 12 goals while giving up just 2 in the first 3 games. The final game pitted the #1 seeded Iowa Rush team against the #2 seeded JUSC/WDM team, Rush scored 1 goal and that was all it took to bring home their State Cup Championship. Congrats girls!



The **U18 Girls** ended their fall season on a high note with a hard-earned State Cup Championship of their own! Iowa Rush played 4 first round games, beating DM Menace, BSA, IA Alliance and JUSC/WDM. In the final game, Iowa Rush went on to play IA Alliance who is the returning State Cup Champion as well as defending Regional Champions. A very competitive game ended with a 3-1 scoreline and the State Cup Championship. Congrats girls!

