

Illinois State Cup Championship Report

U12 Boys

Sockers FC defeat Chicago Blast 3-1



Ball control and an aggressive offensive attack were the keys to victory for Sockers FC White in their 3-1 win over Chicago Blast Red in the under-12 boys State Cup championship match. The Sockers' game plan was shown early as they gained possession off of the Blast's kick-off, controlling the ball for much of the first half.

"The key to our team win was the players' confidence in the game plan, controlling the ball on the ground and playing it out of the backline to the front players, using the midfield players for most of the time," said Sockers coach Oleg Vatchev.

Led by forward Simon Megally's impressive dribbling and passing, the Socker offense attacked the Blast defense which stayed strong in front of goalie Juergen Carabez until the Sockers' Ashwin Cornelius knocked a corner kick from Bill Cooney into the bottom left of the goal for a 1-0 Sockers' lead.

Trying to respond right away, the Blast streaked down the field but as seemed to happen every time a Blast offensive attack was put together, the Sockers' Justin Gavros was there to break it up. Any time the ball made it past the strong Sockers defense, goalkeeper Colton Brooks was there to make the stop.

The second half saw a switch as the Blast offense lead by Brandon Medina and Jack Alberts became the aggressors continually making their way to the Sockers side of the field only to have their plays stopped by slide tackles and an aggressive Sockers' defense.

On the other side, the Sockers offense seemed to be just a step too slow as passes to a streaking Daniel Kavanagh were just out of reach on three offensive possessions.

Chicago Blast's aggressive attack finally paid off when an Alberts' header to the left of a diving Jeremy Palcan tied the game at 1-1, setting the stage for an aggressive final 8 minutes of play.

As the clock continued to tick down, both teams struggled to gain an advantage with neither able to advance the ball much farther than midfield until the Sockers were able to break free getting to the Blast's left corner. From there, Ivan Surlina launched a corner pass that Daniel Kavanagh headed into the left corner of the goal giving the Sockers a 2-1 advantage.

One-minute later, a Blast foul gave the Sockers a free kick just outside the goalie box. Juan Carlos Cisneros' kick was stopped by a diving Carabez but Cooney knocked the deflection to the back of the net for the final goal, clinching the Sockers' 3-1 victory.

"Our team performed very well," Vatchev said. "The players were relaxed, confident and focused during the entire game."

Sockers FC Chicago White: Daniel Aparicio, Jacob Bevan, Colton Brooks, Nicholas Buncker, Juan Carlos Cisneros, Bill Cooney, Ashwin Cornelius, Justin Gavros, Xavier Gomez, Daniel Kavanagh, Kirill Likhovid, Simon Megally, Jeremy Palcan, Ivan Surlina, Troy Wheeler; Coaches: Oleg Vatchev & Leo Kulinczenko

How They Won The Championship: Defeated Palatine Celtics Select 3-1, Defeated Schwaben Nationals 4-0, Defeated Libertyville Premier Orange 3-1, Defeated Chicago Magic North 94/95 4-0, Defeated Chicago Blast 3-1

Chicago Blast 12 Red: Jack Alberts, John Andrews, Jurgen Carabez, Peter Gertos, Rogerio Gonzalez, Jonathon Guzman, Benjamin Kucera, Eric Lukitsh, Jonathon Marquez, Brandon Medina, Reid Melton, Luis Ortiz, Efrain Padilla, Elixen Ramirez, Matthew Ramsey, Jason Santos, Ryan Schwartz; Coaches: Aleks Mihailovic & Milos Mamula

How They Reached The Championship Game: Defeated Mundelein Strikers 4-0, Defeated Midwest Wings 2-1, Defeated Galaxy 94-95 Blue 4-0, Defeated Sockers FC Blue 3-0

Illinois State Cup Championship Report

U12 Girls

Blue Dolphins defeat Sockers FC 1-0



A nearly month-long journey through the State Cup brackets for the Blue Dolphins culminated Sunday, June 3, in Rockford when the club defeated Sockers FC Chicago 1-0 to garner the under-12 girls state championship.

Coach Magno Barretto's side went unscored upon in its final 5 matches of the tournament, including this shut-out which featured water-tight defense by the back-line of Hope D'Addario, Kaitlin Johnson and captain Kelly Manski, who stayed organized and sharp in front of keeper Kiley Dunning who recorded the clean-sheet.

"Kiley played very well in goal for us during the tournament, and our defense, from back-to-front has allowed us to have the run of play in each of our victories leading up to today's big win," said Barretto.

The Blue Dolphins outscored its opponents 21-1 in 5 matches, giving up a goal in its opener against Edison Park, but on this day, it was a strike from Brooke Ksiazek in the 48th minute which would send them to the victory stand to accept its hardware.

"I think a lot of us were a little nervous in the first-half, so we got away from doing some of the things that coach wanted us to do in this match," began Ksiazek. "At (half) we talked about getting the ball forward and playing (wide) and looking to cross more to open up an attack a little more and putting pressure on the Sockers."

The suggestion seemed to help the eventual champs.

Under siege just after the break, the Sockers watched as D'Addario hit the frame from 30 yards, which rebounded out to an awaiting Mia Espino who unloaded her own drive in which Sockers keeper Megan Lindbert saved superbly.

However, minutes later, Ksiazek found the back of the net with a terrific run up the right side before thumping home the game-winner off a wonderful cross from teammate Julianna De Poister.

From here on out, it was the Dolphins back-line and the midfield trio of Shannon Jacobsen, Espino and Ksiazek that kept the Sockers unable to possess in or around the 18, all compounded with the absence of one of its scoring weapons, Angela Toritto, who left late in the match with an ankle injury.

Blue Dolphins: Jorie Clawson, Hope D'Addario, Gianna Dal Pazzo, Julianna DePoister, Kiley Dunning, Mia Espino, Alyssa Fox, Shannon Jacobsen, Kaitlin Johnson, Keisi Krakauer, Brooke Ksiazek, Kelly Manski, Dana Miller, Molly Piech, Michelle Poulsen, Jenna Romano, Christa Szalch, Lauren Wytiaz; Coaches: Magno Barretto & Kevin Jacobsen

How They Won The Championship: Defeated Edison Park Celtics 5-1; Defeated LFSA U12 Blue 3-0; Defeated Cary Defenders Premier 4-0; Defeated Rockford Dactyls 4-0; Defeated Sockers FC Chicago 1-0

Sockers FC Chicago: Bryce Banuelos, Carly Brown, Marisa Christy, Katie Donnowitz, Jackie Georgoulis, Lauren Gierman, Aleksandra Kurzydowski, Megan Lindbert, Megan Merida, Michelle Mottonen, Jessa Rizzo, Alexis Sprague, Angela Toritto, Savannah Uding, Kelly Vande Merkt; Coaches: Ahmed Gad & Nino DaSilva

How They Reached The Championship Game: Defeated ASC Eagles 2-0; Defeated Libertyville Premier Orange 2-1; Defeated NSA Fireballs Premier 2-0; Defeated PSA Legends Elite 1-0

Illinois State Cup Championship Report

U13 Boys

Chicago Wind defeats Ajax 3-0



The Chicago Wind signed off on a superb weekend of soccer after winning the under-13 boys State Cup title after defeating Ajax 3-0 June 3 in Rockford.

Joel Salmeron fired in the eventual game-winner just 7 minutes into the match, and a Jose Monte PK conversion just before the break was all the Wind would need as they hoisted the big trophy in front of an appreciative group of family, friends and fans.

One day earlier the Wind put out top-flight club Chicago Magic in the semi-finals to help book its spot in the finals against the Ajax. Using the momentum from the Magic match, the Wind were able to fight off a hard-playing Ajax side coached by Bora Petric.

"That is a very good team with plenty of good players at every position," Ajax coach Petric would say.

"This is the fourth year that we've been together as a team, and you can begin to see (them) come together and play the way they are supposed to," added Wind coach Bato Radonic.

Off a set piece, Salmeron would find the back of the net with a low blast from 20 yards to finish a terrific helper from teammate Emmanuel Chavez.

Wind keeper Christian Lomeli would keep his club in front when he stopped Andrew Kovacevic point-blank at the near post, but it was one of just a few opportunities Ajax would have on this afternoon against a club which used the big pitch to create, distribute and play through its midfield continually.

"(Bato) told us we had to outwork (Ajax) today from the very beginning, just like we did against the Magic," said defender Andrew Chang.

Roberto Albuquerque was taken down inside the box at 31 minutes to give Monte and the Wind 2-0 lead then in the 44th minute, Albuquerque made it 3-0 when he beat a trio of marks to go past Ajax keeper Kevin Anderson, who deserved a better fate after turning in a wonderful effort despite the three goals allowed.

"This team has been fun to see grow, and learn to enjoy playing the game," added Radonic.

Chicago Wind National Black: Roberto Albuquerque, Jose Carrera, Andrew Chang, Emmanuel Chavez, Josue Chavez, Taylor Click, Gavin Craig, Ruben Curiel, Ian D Forlow, Kevin Grube, Richard Lekakh, Christian Lomeli, Robert Meyer, Joe Monte, Armando C. Pena, Manuel Rios, Joel Salmeron, Michael Shipp; Coaches: Bato Radonic & Sole Antonijevic

How They Won The Championship: Defeated Chicago Magic North 93/94 3-1; Defeated Chicago Magic 93/94 5-1; Defeated Ajax 3-0

Ajax: Jorge Alvarez, Marco Alvarez, Kevin Anderson, Brian Benjamin, Jack Cerne, Dante Gillespie, Michael Keane, Andrew Kovacevic, Stephan Kovacevic, Sean LaBahn, Kyle Lindberg, Eric Osika, Michael Plant, Alex Ruble, Nicholas Smith, Ryan Solomon, Sean Stevens; Coaches: Boran Petric & Dragan Pavlovic

How They Reached The Championship Game: Defeated Schaumburg 4-1; Defeated Eclipse West 2-0

Illinois State Cup Championship Report

U13 Girls

Chicago Magic defeats Team Chicago Comets 3-1



After a slow start, the Chicago Magic defeated favored Team Chicago Comets as striker Kate Johnson scored a hat-trick in a 3-1 victory Sunday, June 3 in the under-13 girls State Cup final at Sportscore 1 in Rockford.

"Not bad for a No. 7 seed," offered Magic head coach Scott Fonfara, who enjoyed the fact that his club battled through its low seed to defeat a host of higher seeds to reach the final against the No. 2 Comets. "We talked about getting into this match a year ago, and the girls, when on or off the field, always seemed to keep (that) as an important focus for this year's State Cup."

Magic keeper Danielle Callanan was unable to prevent the Comets from finding the back of the net first when Kristina Tomaras on a full gallop, would one-time a ball out of the air and past Callanan just 7 minutes into the match.

It looked like the Comets would be firmly in the driver's seat as they played continually through Tomaras and found Zoe Swift and Kristin Bronersky up top. It appeared the Comets would take an even bigger lead when Tomaras hit the wood-work from 30 yards after Callanan was able to get a glove on the piercing blast.

Play was just as frantic and in the fast lane as the first 35 minutes when play resumed following intermission, but the Magic broke through to equalize at 46 minutes when Johnson was able to re-direct a header over Comets' keeper Jillian D'Amico off a Corinne Harris helper

D'Amico would keep her club even when Johnson slammed another shot her way, then moments later she would take the ball off of Johnson's boots after she broke free down the right flank.

Both sides endured a one-hour plus rain delay, but it was the Magic who were able to reignite their engine quicker with Johnson finding the back of the net within 8 minutes to put this match out of reach for good.

After that, Fonfara turned the defensive pressure up when he dropped MF Teig Palmateer back to join Allison Farkos and Emily Hattle to tighten things up.

"We didn't let down after the rain delay, and just took the momentum that we had built before (it) and just kept going," said Johnson.

Chicago Magic 93/94: Samantha Bathurst, Jessica Bean, Haleigh Boatright, Danielle Callanan, Somer Druszkowski, Allison Farkos, Lindsey Hadley, Corinne Harris, Emily Hattle, Kate Johnson, Lauren Kelly, Taylor Markanich, Sophie Meskis, Greccia Miranda, Teig Palmateer, Taylor Schissler, Kate VEndrely, Alexandria Zorica; Coaches: Scott Fonfara & Todd Bailey

How They Won The Championship: Defeated Team Elmhurst 4-0; Defeated NSA Fury 1-0; Defeated Sockers FC 2-0; Defeated Team Chicago Comets 3-1

Team Chicago Comets: Mogbaola Agboola, Kristin Bronersky, Jillian D'Amico, Janelle Domek, Kim Foster, Megan Kelley, Rachel Lovely, Juliana Marks, Bianca Navejas, Caitlin Piechota, Zoe Swift, Megan Szubert, Sydney Tappin, Hannah Thayer, Kristina Tomaras; Coaches Ana Costa & Jay Kelley

How They Reached The Championship Game: Defeated Arlington Aces 5-2; Defeated Homer Hawks 3-2; Defeated Eclipse Select 1-0

Illinois State Cup Championship Report

U14 Boys Klaus Ruege Cup

Lightning SC defeats Campton United 3-0



Lightning SC handed an inexperienced Campton United a tough football lesson when it marched through its opponent in a 3-0 victory to capture the under-14 boys State Cup championship.

The Lightning started brightly when Jacob Brindle's magnificent individual effort led to superb strike in the 10th minute, before Alexander Carpanzano converted a PK at 27 minutes after Victor Pineda was hauled down inside the box following a zigzag run.

"Three months ago we got this team together and what they accomplished in that short time is nothing short of amazing," said a proud Campton head coach Michael DesLauries. "We just didn't get it done today, and didn't have an answer for anything that the Lightning did to us.

"Giving up that early goal was tough, but so was that late PK before the break. For a young team, that's a lot to overcome."

Brindle was ready to run in the early stages, and with Campton keeping a wary eye on national team member Pineda up top, it was Brindle who would benefit from the extra set of markers on his front-line teammate.

"It's always nice to score first to put your opponent on its heels," said Brindle, whose missile found the upper right corner.

Tyler Gill, Alexander Carpanzano and Sean Mogan hustled well around the midfield to help restrict Campton's attack for most of the match, while adding energy and pace for the Lightning.

The Lightning were looking to get both Brindle and Pineda clear behind the Campton back-line after intermission, but it was Carpanzano who would do so at 45 minutes when he ran onto a Andrew DeLozier free-kick to finish the scoring.

"The guys really took control in the midfield in the opening stages, and after that first goal, our confidence grew and we had the better of things right until the end of the match," said Lightning club director Trey Bradberry, sitting in for head coach Matt Kirkpatrick.

Lightning SC White: Christopher Alexander, Jack Allard, Bryce Barman, Peter Beasley, Jacob Brindle, Alexander Carpanzano, Andrew DeLozier, Grant Fitzgerald, Tyler Gill, Sean Mogan, Victor Pineda, Matthew Pugh, Erik Ramirez, Jonathan Rosenbaum, Horacio Sanchez, Carson Swafford, Elliot Totsch, Austin Zamora; Coaches: Matt Kirkpatrick & Trey Bradberry

How They Won The Championship: Defeated Hoffman Hurricanes 4-2; Defeated Chicago Magic 2-1; Defeated Campton United Navy 3-0

Campton United Navy: Noah Anthony, Trenton Coyle, Michael Gerold, Kevin Hilgart, Robert Johnson, Seamus Kaminski, Nicholas Lutsch, Zachary Matuszak, Nathaniel Pauer, Matthew Rasmussen, Kyle Reopelle, Eric Russell, Jordan Stallman, Christopher Tomek, Dylan Tucker, Mitch Tyton, Brady Wahl, Jeffrey Weber; Coach: Michael DesLauries

How They Reached The Championship Game: Defeated Eclipse Select 2-0, Defeated Chicago Wind Nationals 4-2, Defeated Downers Grove Roadrunners 3-2

Illinois State Cup Championship Report

U14 Girls

Eclipse Select defeats Eclipse East 3-0



Georgiana Wagemann and Alexia Krause scored first-half strikes, and a stalwart back-line kept keeper Nicole Amari out of danger all match long as defending champ Eclipse Select defeated Eclipse East 3-0 in the under-14 girls final.

Wagemann's eventual game-winner in the 3rd minute was all it took to help lead Select back into the regionals in Des Moines, Iowa on June 22 where they'll look to reignite its hopes of a championship run after a disappointing chase last summer.

"This club has a lot to prove this year," said Select head coach Rory Dames.

Select won a match, and drew in 2 others in group play, however were unable to advance into the semi-finals as they lost out in tie-breaker to Vardarstars, who along with Select and FC Milwaukee finished with 5 points overall in its division.

The East side were unable to reach the level of its higher profile club mates in the early going and when Gabbi Mc Artor easily beat her marker inside before sending Wagemann through, the momentum quickly went in the direction of Select, which never looked back from that point.

East's back-line of Mary Wright, Jackie Alyinovich and Kelly Diedrich put in yeoman work throughout the match, and did well to bend, not break in front of keeper Darcy Hargadon, but the trio could do nothing when a scrum erupted around the spot at 27 minutes leading to a goal by Krause to make it 2-0 heading into the break.

Select, firmly in the driver's seat, struggle some in the attacking end and in its possession game in the second-half, but with Amanda Filian, Haley Cooper and Carli Pappas containing in their own end, Amari would retire early as teammate Allison Norenberg would enter to relieve at the hour mark.

On the turn from just inside the box, Lindsey Daly would finish off the scoring at 59 minutes.

"They were simply better than us on all levels, but our girls played hard against a very good team," offered East head coach Steve Berry.

Eclipse Select 92/93: Nicole Amari, Muriel Battaglia, Michaela Berman, Haley Cooper, Lindsey Daly, Amanda Filian, Sarah Gorden, Kathleen Kane, Alexia Krause, Gabbi McArtor, Allison Norenberg, Carli Pappas, Haley Pike, Ali Ragins, Allie Roeber, Sammy Scofield, Katie Swift, Georgiana Wagemann; Coaches: Rory DAMES & Meghan Dames

How They Won The Championship: Defeated Lightning SC White 5-1, Defeated Metro United 3-0, Defeated Eclipse East 3-0

Eclipse Select East: Jackie Alyinovich, Natalie D'Agostino, Kelly Diedrich, Kelly Disher, Kate Dunaway, Liz Flerlage, Claire Grabinski, Darcy Hargadon, Danielle Inzinga, Drea Issleib, Natalie Lazer, Jessica Luttrell, Emma McCall, Niki Sebo, Kate Shea, Danielle Vujovic, Mary Wright; Coach: Steve Berry

How They Reached The Championship Game: Defeated NSA Premier 2-0, Defeated FC United 1-0