The Chicago Fire Academy scored early and often in their win over the Chicago Fire Jrs West, capping off an impressive run in the Under-12 State Cup where they scored 22 goals while only allowing four.

“Both teams were good and deserving to be in the final,” Victor Fernandez, Fire Academy Head Coach said. “We started the scoring early and never let the foot off the pedal as we had done all of the State Cup tournament.”

In the final, David Ochoa, Roberto Alonzo, Gilberto Angeles, Bryce Blevins and Andy Lomeli each scored.

“This is a very organized team of players,” said Fernandez. “Defensively we were very good and offensively we were even better as we capitalized on our chances. Our goalkeeper Sammy Sandoval did an amazing job the whole tournament, consistently keeping us in the game and making some good saves. Every player gave 100% and the team's talent showed.”

Kalyssa Van Zanten scored in each half thanks to assists from Hannah Lapeire in the first and Katherine Hanner in the second to lead Grove United Revolution to a 2-1 victory over Chicago Magic PSG South in the youngest women’s State Cup final.

“The game was uptempo and high energy from the start,” Henry Goldenstein, Grove United Head Coach, said. “Our emphasis was on playing attacking soccer and it showed in the number of scoring chances we created. At the same time, our defense kept its shape and limited the Magic’s scoring opportunities while also creating chances from quick transition from defense to offense. The fast pace of the game required us to get contributions from everyone in the lineup and we did. It was truly a team effort.”

With the State Cup championship, Grove United reach a goal they had set as a team in September.

“We started to talk about State Cup at the beginning of the fall season and what it would take to accomplish the goal of winning it,” said Goldenstein. “We talked about how each player had a role to play and was integral to our success. We challenged the players to take risks and be spectacular on the field. We asked them to work hard in practice, not only for their development, but that of their teammates. Ultimately, the thrill of being State Cup champs was even greater than we had expected. It was one of those moments that we will always remember. While it may sound cliche, this team is as close as a team can be, despite having players from many communities.”
After scoring 13 goals and not allowing any, Raiders FC Premier rolled into the Under-13 Boys State Cup championship match a very confident team. In the finals, they again showcased their dominating balance of offense and defense, topping the Chicago Fire Academy 3-0.

“The decisive factors for us in the final were high pressure with quick offensive transition, getting the ball to wide areas, and capitalizing from crosses and forward penetrating passes,” said Sergi Daniv, Raiders Head Coach. “Defensively, we had a disciplined performance by our back four, applied good pressure, and denied space to their front line. Our keeper made a few critical saves in key moments of the game.”

Omar Barragan broke the 0-0 score in the 36th minute and Anthony Aldape would give Raiders a 2-0 lead just after the half. Aaron Ibarra score in the 53rd finalized the scoring.

“It’s always a special feeling to be a champion, whether it’s a state, national or international event,” Daniv said. “It represents a certain level of achievement, a goal that you worked for throughout that season.”

Under-13 Boys State Cup Championship: Raiders FC Premier: 3 - Chicago Fire Academy: 0

Anthony Aldape, Julian Arroyo, Omar Barragan, Manuel Centitos, Cesar Cosio, Christian Crespo, Josue Espinoza, Jesus Garibay, George Gonzalez, Alexis Guzman, Aaron Ibarra, Alan Moscosa, Cristian Marquez, Isaiah Nieves, Moises Sanchez, Michael Silver, Victor Velencia, Giovanny Vargas; Coach: Sergi Daniv

Under-13 Girls State Cup Championship: Eclipse Select NWI: 3 - Campton United Navy: 2 (PKs)

Morgan Asmussen, Haley Blanchard, Maggie Bleyer, Jessica Denney, Amanda DiNardo, Caitlin Halslip, Lauren Healy, Autumn Hollowell, Haley Leanna, Madeline Levinia, Brynn Miller, Jacqueline Molloy, Allyson Mussalem, Alexis Ortega, Amanda Ragadoski, Ella Roberts, Madeline Swade, Elizabeth Sylves

Eclipse Select NWI was able to outlast Campton United Navy in penalty kicks after an exciting Under-13 State Cup final finished regulation and two overtime periods tied at 2-2.


Lauren Albrecht, Chantel Cerranza, Gabriella Cesaroni, Gracey Dilbase, Jenna Dombrowski, Amaya Ellis, Ella Holland, Cassidy Joyce, Hayley Popiel, Megan Majewski, Sara Rosenfeld, Haley Rydberg, Morgan Schueneman, Giorgia Wahlberg, Peyton Willie; Coach: Chris Brown

Autumn Hollowell and Maggie Bleyer recorded goals for Eclipse and Chantel Cerranza and Peyton Willie scored for Campton during regulation.

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With their victory in the Under-14 Boys State Cup, it was a three-peat for the Chicago Magic PSG Pre-Academy, winning their third straight State Cup, having previously won at Under-12 and Under-13.

“I think that (the consecutive State Cup title run) is an impressive record,” Bato Radoncic. “I was very happy for the boys and myself that we won it again.”

This Cup victory would be earned in a hard-fought battle with Spartan FC-1 Academy Elite, the Regional qualifier thru the Midwest Regional League.

Tremendous play in goal by the keeper-combo of Jose Castillo in the first half and Lopez Humberto in the second half kept a clean sheet for the match, which would prove to be crucial as the game’s only score would come in the 54th minute by Michael Gutierrez.

“The second half was more tactical and we had to defend a lot since we had only 12 guys available because four players were hurt and we had to close the game,” said Radoncic. “Michael Gutierrez scored the goal at the right moment.”

Paige Pappanastos’s second goal of the match for NSA, one minute after GLSA FC 1974 tied the game at 2-2 in the 67th minute secured the Jeff Bradley Cup for the Rockets in the Under-14 State Cup final.

Kyleigh Dominguez gave NSA an early 1-0 lead, scoring 8-minutes into the contest. Pappanastos’ first score at 25′ extended the NSA lead to 2-0 prior to the half.

In the second half, GLSA’s offense came out amped up and evened the score at 2-2 with goals by Rebecca Kubin and Emily Blackwell in the 45th and 67th minute.

The GLSA momentum would be short lived though as Pappanastos would score the game winner at the 68′ mark and the NSA defense would prevent another GLSA score.
The Chicago Magic was able to overcome an early red card that put them at a man disadvantage for the remainder of the match to defeat GLSA Libertyville FC 1974 2-1 in the Under-15 Boys State Cup championship. The win was the third consecutive U15 Boys State Cup title for the Magic as a club.

“We invested a lot of hard work in the U14 and U15’s,” Bato Radoncic, Chicago Magic Head Coach, said. “All the hard work paid off. It was really a hard game against GLSA FC 1974 especially after we got a red card. We had to change our whole tactical plan for that game and it was not easy. The game could have gone either way, but at the end of the day we were able to pull out the win and win another State Cup. Kendall Stork put the Magic ahead 1-0 in the 35th minute. That lead would stand for only 13 minutes as Liom O’Connel would even the game in the 48th.

Under-15 Boys State Cup Championship: Chicago Magic PSG Pre-Academy: 2 - GLSA FC 1974: 1

Kendall Stork put the Magic ahead 1-0 in the 35th minute. That lead would stand for only 13 minutes as Liom O’Connel would even the game in the 48th.

Albert Arabik would give the short-sided Magic the game-winning goal in the 70th minute.

“All Albert Arabik is a very special player and was the key part to success on that game,” said Radoncic. “After he scored, I had to move him back to defend since we lost our defending-mid early in the game. He played defensive mid for the rest of the game. I think he has a very bright future with the work that he puts on the training field day in and day out.”

Under-15 Girls State Cup Championship: Eclipse Elite Black: 5 - Eclipse Elite White: 1

An all-Eclipse State Cup final is starting to become a tradition for the teams made-up of players born in 1997 & 1998. In 2011, two Eclipse teams met in the Under-13 championship, it was all Eclipse in the U14 final in 2012 and it was another inter-club final in the 2013 Under-15 Girls State Cup final.

This year’s all-club contest saw the Elite Black squad score early, Foster Ignoffio in the 1st minute, and often (Ignoffio, Kaitlyn Ko, Cassidy Privett twice) to top Elite White 5-1.

Under-19 Boys State Cup Championship (Klaus Reuge Cup): Chicago Fire Academy: 3 - Galaxy SC Blue: 0

Chris Ogbanna, Elliot Borge and Joseph Calistri all scored in the first 30-minutes of play as the Fire rolled to hoist the Klaus Reuge Cup as the Under-19 State champions.

Olivia Pappalardo’s goal in the 45th minute would be the lone score of the match and give Eclipse their eighth straight, and 10th out of the last 12 seasons, U19 State Cup title.

Under-19 Girls State Cup Championship: Eclipse Select: 1 - NSA Inferno: 0
‘13 Illinois State Cup

Under-16 Boys State Cup Championship: Chicago Fire Youth Soccer Club: 1 - Team Evanston Premier: 0

Matt Moderwell’s strike in the 58th minute was the lone score in the Boys Under-16 State Cup Championship and thanks to tremendous play in goal by Jacob Rooth and the rest of the defense; the Chicago Fire Youth Soccer Club was able to defeat Team Evanston Premier 1-0.

“It is always a good feeling to be able to win an Illinois State Cup given how strong a state Illinois is,” said Marc McElligott, Chicago Fire Head Coach. “It is a great accomplishment for the players and it was very satisfying to see how much it meant to them. The team is very well organized and disciplined and this I think was the key for them in the final. After a scrappy opening to the game they were able to gain control of the flow of the game and although we maybe didn’t quite have our shooting boots on as well as we would have liked, the team has shown on a consistent basis that it knows how to get over the finish line.”

Under-16 Girls State Cup Championship (Flo Dyson Cup): NSA Premier Jaguars: 2 - Eclipse Select: 0

Afer competing in a 5-3 shootout in their semifinal match versus FCX North Black, the NSA Jaguars knew they needed to tighten up their defensive effort against the talented offense of Eclipse Elite (8 goals in previous three matches) if they hoped to raise their second consecutive State Cup trophy.

We weren’t well organized in the FCX game for the semifinals, but that game helped us tremendously because it pointed out a few weaknesses that needed to be addressed,” Said Bonnie Young, NSA Head Coach. “We were able to shift a couple of players into new positions and those changes were key in winning the state title and advancing through regionals.”

In the final, Erin Fitzgerald gave NSA an early lead in the 12th minute. Goalkeeper Erin Morgan would be put to work throughout the game but the intense match would remain 1-0 until the 78th minute when Morgan Kemerling put NSA into a comfortable 2-0 advantage which they held until the final whistle.

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Thanks to Grant Stoneman’s goal in the 6th minute, Campton United Navy was able to gain control of the tempo early in the Boys Under-17 State Cup final. While the rest of the first half would remain an offensive stalemate, the second half saw Campton extend the lead to 2-0 in the 47th minute on Nestor Ascencio’s score.

Jason Gonzalez gave Raiders FC some hope, cutting the lead to 2-1 with 37 minutes left in regulation but Beck Nebergall sealed the Campton win with the game’s final goal at the 74-minute mark.

Under-17 Boys State Cup Championship: Campton United Navy: 3 - Raiders FC Premier: 1

Nestor Ascencio, Daniel DiLeonardi, Benjamin Franzten, Eduardo Gonzalez, Samuel Hardy, Kevin Heinrich, Jacob Hoepner, TC Hull, Billy Larsen, Phillip LeGare, Beck Nebergall, Brian Pacilio, Jakub Rys, Reyman Solis, Jacob Sterling, Grant Stoneman, Stephen Todd; Coach: Chad Flanders

After allowing only one goal in their previous two matchups, The Academy United SC had shown their defensive prowess was starting to match their offensive firepower. Thanks to an early 2-0 cushion via scores from Jenna Kentgen (31’) and Mackenzie Fuller (67’), goalkeeper Alyssa Sickler and her defensive mates held off an amped up FC United in the final 15 minutes after Sofia Pavon cut the lead to 2-1.

“We have always scored goals, but getting ‘clean sheets’ and shutting down some of the great attacking players here in (Illinois), well that’s the difference for this Championship,” said Peter Glon, Academy United Head Coach. “Alyssa coming on board just sent tremendous confidence to not only the back line, but the rest of the team as well. Our biggest changes came at the defensive end of our program, not only Alyssa but also the center backs, Alex Bukovac, Abby Nordeen, the outside backs of Sarah Warren, & Jenny Novak, have produced.”

For a very successful team that has won regularly over their time together, this win finally earned them the prize that had eluded them for three years.

“The IYSA State Cup Championship is a goal that these girls have had since they came together at age 14,” Glon said. “The IYSA has extremely strong competition, clubs and organizations from top to bottom, more so than other Region II state. This was a great thrill for these girls. While we play in the Region II Premier Division 1 and US National League, these girls consider winning the State Cup a priority.”

“Most important is the friendships these girls have established with each other,” added Glon. “They come together three times a year to do service projects. Don't get me wrong, the winning, playing at the highest level in a tough state is great, but it’s their friendships and (the) memories of getting the championship that is their priority.”

Under-17 Girls State Cup Championship: The Academy United: 2 - FC United Select: 1

Kelsea Berg, Alex Bukovac, Mary Beth Cahill, Allison Cerny, Mackenzie Fuller, Emily Helle, Jenna Kentgen, Abigail Nordeen, Jennifer Novak, Grace Omdorf, Sophie Pohl, Alyssa Sickler, Rachel Stoffregen, Sarah Warren, Sydney Wright, Nicole Zaino; Coach: Peter Glon

Antonio Castro, Miguel Cruz, Jose Fuentes, Sergio Fuentes, Jason Gonzalez, Omar Guzman, Josue Leal, Brian Leon, Hugo Lopez, Kyle Madden, Alejandro Martinez, Jesus Martinez, Alejandro Mendez, Jose Ochoa, Roberto Rodriguez, Osvaldo Salazar, Marcos Sanchez, Jonathan Viera; Coach: Brennan Graham

Jason Gonzalez gave Raiders FC some hope, cutting the lead to 2-1 with 37 minutes left in regulation but Beck Nebergall sealed the Campton win with the game’s final goal at the 74-minute mark.
Not only is it one of the best rivalries in the state, but also the country, and the latest chapter of Raiders FC vs Galaxy SC Blue added another chapter in the 2013 State Cup. Avenging losses in the 2012 State Cup and US Youth Soccer National Championship, Raiders FC topped Galaxy SC 1-0 in an exciting Under-18 final.

“Winning the State Cup was a goal of mine the moment I became a youth soccer coach,” said Minos Vlamakis, Raiders FC Head Coach. “Developing local players and pushing them to the next level has always been the key goal for any team I coach, but from a competitive standpoint, if you want to be known as one of the best teams/programs in the country, you have show that success at the State level. And there is no better way to achieve that than winning the Illinois State Cup.”

“I can only hope that younger teams in the future have similar healthy rivalries between teams as what we have had (with Galaxy) over the last few years,” Vlamakis continued. “It felt good to get that monkey off our back since we lost to them in penalties in the 2012 IYSA State Cup as well as in the 2012 USYS National Championship. Brett Strang runs a great Under-18 Boys State Cup Championship: Raiders FC Premier: 1 - Galaxy SC Blue: 0

Heading into the final 15 minutes of play, FC United was finally able to hoist the State Cup trophy they had competed for since they were U13’s, defeating Team Chicago Botafogo 2-1 in the Under-18 Girls State Cup Championship.

“As a club FC United couldn’t be more pleased with this team,” said Craig Snower, FC United Head Coach. “They are one of the original modern FC United teams. Over six years in FC United, they competed in every major event offered through US Youth Soccer. The State Cup win enabled them to compete in Regionals and ultimately advance to USYSA Nationals which truly gave them the opportunity to compete against the best teams in the country. Team Chicago is an amazing team with great players and a great coach. We had always played them tough but had never been able to get the elusive win including the U17 State Cup final the previous year. So, to get that victory in our last game ever in Illinois as a group was perfect. There was no better ending for this group of extraordinary players.”

Heading into the final 15 minutes of play, FC United held a 2-0 lead thanks to scores from Abigale Reed and Allison Curry but Team Chicago was not going to surrender the State title easily. Attacking with intense fervor, Dana Miller cut the lead to 2-1 at the 77-minute mark. Goalkeeper Brittany San Roman and the