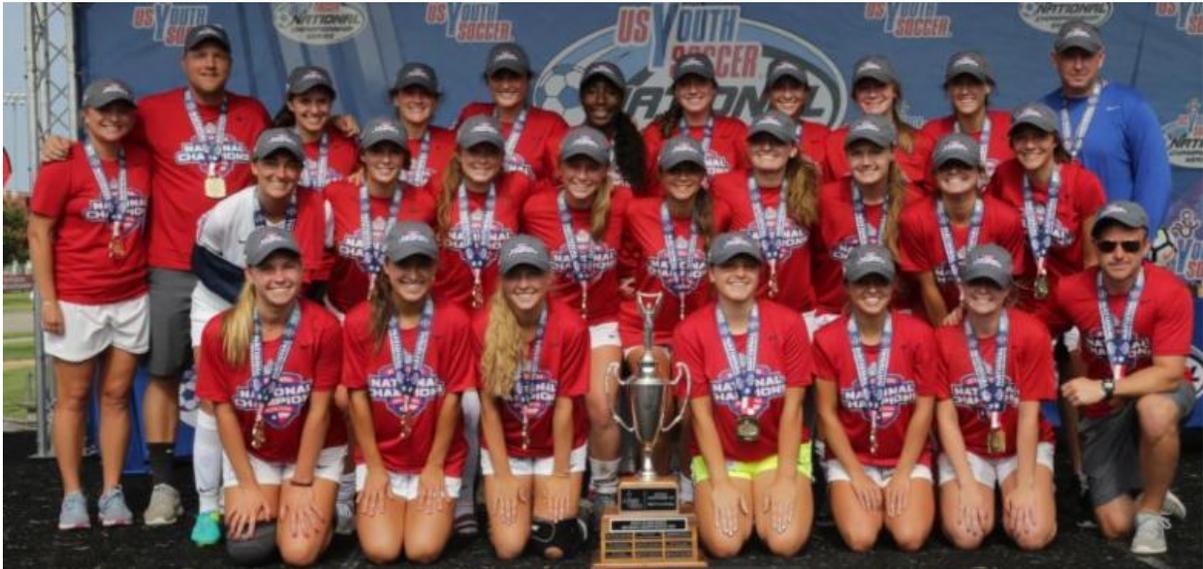


TSC U18G Earn TSSA's and TSC's 2nd Consecutive National Championship

Second Division I National Championship Makes its Way to Tennessee



Tennessee Soccer Club's U18 girls coached by NSC U-23 PDL Coach Kyle Roelke, recently claimed the clubs, and Tennessee's, second USYSA National Championship in Frisco, TX on July 30th. It marks the 2nd straight year TSC has returned home with the U18 Girls Championship trophy, after Coach Ronnie Woodard's team claimed the trophy for TSC last year. Roelke's team capped off an impressive weeklong event by defeating Arsenal Colorado Academy 99, 2-1, in the finals. Roelke spoke to TSSA after the tournament about what it took for his team to win the National Championship. "This means so much to these players, their families, the club, and to me as their coach. There is so much emotion invested by all of us and when the final whistle blows, it's a feeling you can't really describe. I'm so happy for these kids. They worked so hard to get here and earned the right to call themselves national champions."



Roelke received an ice bath after his team claimed TSC's 2nd national title in as many years. Roelke, also coach of Nashville SC's U-23 PDL team, was coaching his 18th game in the month of July.

Roelke's team went through the championship run unphased, outscoring their opponents 9-2 in group play. After dominating the group stage, the team defeated Cleveland FC 2-1 in overtime in the semi-finals. TSC struck first in the 13th minute with a goal from Karlie Paschall, who is now entering her freshman year as a player at Duke University. Thirteen minutes later, Vanessa DiNardo from Cleveland FC answered. In the 94th minute the winning goal was scored by TSC's Peyton DePriest, an entering freshman at MTSU this fall, propelling TSC to the national finals.



The Championship would produce plenty of action very early. And just like a year ago, Paschall played a big role as she helped TSC strike early before the side held on for a 2-1 victory over Arsenal Colorado Academy 99. Paschall, who has spent time as a defender for the U.S. Under-20 Women's National Team, made an immediate impact as a forward. After assisting on two of her side's goals in last year's championship match, Paschall picked up right where she left off in the third minute against Arsenal. She slipped a perfectly weighted through ball between the back two defenders, and

Tennessee's Julie Garst placed her shot just inside the left post to give Tennessee an early 1-0 lead.

Less than a minute later, Tennessee doubled its lead when Paschall laced a right-footed shot from just outside the box that went off the keeper's fingertips and found the left side-netting. However, Arsenal continued the frantic start by pulling a goal back seconds later. Bailey Nemechek stepped up to win a ball at the top of the TSC penalty area and struck a shot that flew just under the bar and into the net.

Arsenal's Esther Malers nearly equalized in the 12th minute but saw her shot hit the crossbar. After Paschall went down with an injury early in the second half, the Colorado side continued to create pressure as it pushed for an equalizer. Despite some close calls, the score remained unchanged as TSC played tough, stingy defense and held on for the 2-1 victory to claim the 18U Girls title. After the game Roelke shared these thoughts with US Youth Soccer. "We battled through it as a group. I couldn't be happier with these girls," Roelke said. "I don't cry much, but I cried. I've only cried a couple times in my life. So, to me, that's about the journey and how much this group has meant to me."

TSC Qualified for Nationals by winning the USYS National League Blue Division for U18 Girls with a 7-0-0 record, 23 Goals For and 5 against. They won TSSA State Cup and had a group play record of 3-0 at Regionals in Greensboro. TSC outscored their opponents 14-3 in the QF, SF and Finals to become Southern Regional Champions.



"I would like to extend congratulations to TSC and one of our top coaches in Tennessee, Kyle Roelke, on bringing another national championship back to their club and to our state," said TSSA Executive Director Hans Hobson. "The domination with which this team went through their age group this year might be one of the most impressive runs in youth soccer history. The consistency and effort throughout the year will make this one of the more special teams in TSSA history."



Paschall, DePriest, and Sydney Malham were all recognized for their accomplishments at the tournament. Paschal and DePriest were named to the BestXI for their age group, with Paschal taking home the Golden Boot trophy as her age groups top scorer. Malham was recognized with the Golden Glove award as her age groups top Goalkeeper.



Paschall, Malham, and DePriest



