



NEWS RELEASE

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MRL TEAMS SHINE AT REGIONALS TWO MRL WILD CARD ENTRIES EARN TRIPS TO THE NATIONALS 10 REGIONAL CHAMPIONS IN U14 -U18 AGE GROUPS PLAYED IN THE MRL

Teams that participated in the 2004-05 MIDWEST REGIONAL LEAGUE proved to be the dominant force at the 2005 US Youth Soccer Region II Championships held in Sioux Falls (SD) on June 25-29.

MRL WILD CARDS EARN TRIPS TO NATIONALS

Midwest Regional League Wild Card entries, Vardar (Michigan) Boys Under 17 and Vardar Boys Under 16 teams captured Region II titles and will represent the Midwest at the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series Finals at Disney's Wide World of Sports complex in Orlando (FL) on July 26-31.

The two Vardar teams, along with 18 other MRL Wild Card entries, earned their slots at the Regionals through outstanding performances in league-wide MRL play during the 2004-05 season. Two teams from each Under 14 through Under 18 age group, both boys and girls, earn Wild Card slots to participate at the Regionals. In addition, each of the 14 State Cup champions representing their state associations earned slots to the Regionals. A record total of 106 teams that participated in the 2004-05 MRL seasons (86 State Cup champions and 20 MRL Wild Card entries), took part in the Regionals from the 14 state associations that comprise Region II.

In addition to the two Regional Championships, three other MRL Wild Card entries were finalists and one other a semi-finalist. Regional Finalists included Eclipse Select (IL-Girls Under 18), Sockers FC Chicago (IL-Boys Under 17), and Sockers FC Chicago (IL-Boys Under 15). The Sockers FC Chicago (IL-Girls Under 15) earned a slot in the Regional Semi-Finals.

MRL Wild Card teams combined for an impressive 36-22-13 overall record at the Regionals (see list below).

MRL TEAMS DOMINATE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN U14-U18 AGE GROUPS

Each of the Regional Champions in the Boys and Girls Under 14 through Under 18 age groups participated in the MRL this past year. Regional Champions that played in the MRL this past year include:

	<u>BOYS</u>	<u>GIRLS</u>
Under 14	Chicago Magic (IL)	Ohio Elite (OH-S)
Under 15	Campton Raptors (IL)	St. Louis SC (MO)
Under 16	Vardar (MI) <i>MRL Wild Card</i>	Michigan Hawks (MI)
Under 17	Vardar (MI) <i>MRL Wild Card</i>	Eclipse Select (IL)
Under 18	FC Milwaukee (WI)	KC Dynamo (KS)

The 106 MRL teams that participated at the Regional championships are based out of the following state associations: Illinois (17 teams), Michigan (14 teams), Indiana (12 teams), Ohio South (12 teams), Ohio North (11 teams), Kentucky (9 teams), Wisconsin (9 teams), Iowa (6 teams), Missouri (6 teams), Minnesota (4 teams), Kansas (4 teams), and Nebraska (2 teams).

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“The success of MRL teams at the Regionals, both as State Cup winners and as league wild cards, clearly shows that our teams gain great experience and competition by facing the elite youth soccer teams in the Midwest throughout our playing seasons,” noted MRL Commissioner Paul Luchowski. “The level of competition in our league far surpasses any other youth soccer league in any organization and prepares teams for competitions such as the US Youth Soccer Regionals and Nationals. MRL league play throughout the Fall and Spring is a key component in player development for the elite player. Game in and game out players are challenged to perform at their highest levels.”

ABOUT THE MRL

During the 2004-05 season, the **Midwest Regional League** had 356 elite youth soccer teams participating in Boys and Girls divisions at the Under 14, Under 15, Under 16, Under 17 and Under 18 age groups. The MRL provides the highest standard of competitive play for youth teams and assures the continued growth and development of elite-level players. Top teams from the Premier Divisions in each age group of the MRL earn Wild Card slots to the Region II Championships for the right to advance to the US Youth Soccer National Championships.

The MRL is part of **US Youth Soccer Region II** which is composed of the state youth soccer associations based in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio North, Ohio South, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The region is an administrative part of **US Youth Soccer-The Game for ALL Kids!**®, the largest member of the United States Soccer Federation, the governing body of soccer in the United States. US Youth Soccer registers more than 3.2 million players annually, ages 5 to 19, in 55 member state associations. US Youth Soccer programs provide a fun, safe and healthy environment for players at every level of the game.

MRL WILD CARD FINAL RESULTS FROM REGIONALS

Division	Team (State Association)	Record (W-L-T)	
Boys Under 14 #1	Vardar (MI)	1-1-1	
Boys Under 14 #2	Fort Wayne Fever Academy (IN)	1-1-1	
Boys Under 15 #1	Chicago Magic (IL)	1-0-2	
Boys Under 15 #2	Chicago Sockers (IL)	4-1-0	Regional Finalist
Boys Under 16 #1	Cleveland Soccer Academy (ON)	1-0-2	
Boys Under 16 #2	Vardar (MI)	4-0-1	Regional Champion
Boys Under 17 #1	Vardar (MI)	4-1-0	Regional Champion
Boys Under 17 #2	Chicago Sockers (IL)	3-1-1	Regional Finalist
Boys Under 18 #1	Michigan Wolves (MI)	0-3-0	
Boys Under 18 #2	Chicago Magic (IL)	2-1-0	
Girls Under 14 #1	Team Chicago (IL)	0-3-0	
Girls Under 14 #2	Arsenal Primo (NE)	2-1-0	
Girls Under 15 #1	Chicago Sockers (IL)	2-1-1	Regional Semi-Finalist
Girls Under 15 #2	Internationals/Pacesetters (ON)	0-1-2	
Girls Under 16 #1	Bloomfield Force (MI)	2-1-0	
Girls Under 16 #2	Dynamo (IN)	1-2-0	
Girls Under 17 #1	Michigan Hawks (MI)	2-1-0	
Girls Under 17 #2	CUP Red (OS)	2-1-0	
Girls Under 18 #1	Eclipse Select (IL)	3-1-1	Regional Finalist
Girls Under 18 #2	Ohio Premier (OS)	1-1-1	

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