

TEAM DAYTON U17 MEN WIN SNICKERS USYSA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Lawrence, IN - Team Dayton's U17 boys team swept through the 2001 Snickers USYSA National Championships in Lawrence, Indiana, winning the National Championship on July 29 in a convincing 2-0 final over the SC Baltimore Bays. Lucas Brewer's penalty kick in the 33rd minute put Team Dayton ahead to stay, and Kevin Nugent's counter attack goal in the 51st minute provided the icing on the cake. Goalkeeper Andy Mortek held the Bays at bay with 4 second half saves.

Team Dayton reached the national finals by winning all three round robin matches with the champions of the other three USYSA regions. In the first match, Team Dayton was pressed to the limit by a talented NM Classic Bandidos team from Albuquerque, NM. After the Bandidos lead 2-1 at half, Team Dayton fought back hard in the second half. An equalizing goal was scored by Kevin Nugent in the 47th minute, then the game winner came from Nate Darr in the 91st minute when he got his head on the end of a long throw-in by Kenny Bertz. Mike Vessells contributed 7 outstanding saves in the second half to keep Team Dayton in the match until Darr and Bertz could combine for the heroic game winner.

The second match featured the exciting Stone Mountain Storm from Atlanta, GA. After an action packed 90 minutes, the teams were still even at 0-0, but for the second straight day, Team Dayton produced a miracle finish. In the first minute of added time, a corner kick by Marc Burch found David Clark unmarked at the near post. When Clark's header found open goal, Team Dayton had won the match 1-0, and had secured it's berth in the finals with a 2-0 record.

The third match gave Team Dayton a preview of the SC Baltimore Bays, who had tied Stone Mountain 1-1 and defeated Classic Bandidos 2-1. The 8 AM start time gave the players a welcome relief from the sweltering heat of the first two days of competition. Nate Darr's goal in the 37th minute, assisted by Bobby Stofer's cross was the only scoring of the day as Team Dayton's solid defensive play prevented the Bays from denting the net. Coupled with the Bandidos defeat of Stone Mountain, SC Baltimore advanced to the championship match in spite of the loss with a round robin record of 1-1-1.

Team Dayton dominated the tournament with an overall record of 4-0-0. SC Baltimore finished at 1-2-1, while Classic Bandidos finished 1-2-0 and Stone Mountain went home winless at 0-2-1.

July 25, 2001 Round Robin

Team Dayton 1 2 - 3

Classic Bandidos 2 0 - 2

Goals: Marc Burch, Kevin Nugent, Nate Darr

Assists: Dana York, Kenny Bertz (2)

Saves: Andy Mortek (4), Mike Vessells (7)

Shots on Goal: Classic Bandidos (14), Team Dayton (11)

July 26, 2001 Round Robin

Stone Mt Storm 0 0 - 0

Team Dayton 0 1 - 1

Goal: David Clark

Assist: Marc Burch

Saves: Andy Mortek (3)

Shots on Goal: Team Dayton (16) Stone Mt (6)

July 27, 2001 Round Robin

Team Dayton 1 0 - 1

SC Baltimore 0 0 - 0

Goal: Nate Darr

Assist: Bobby Stofer

Saves: Andy Mortek (3), Mike Vessells (1)

Shots on Goal: SC Baltimore (10), Team Dayton (9)

July 29, 2001 National Championship Match

Team Dayton 1 1 - 2

SC Baltimore 0 0 - 0

Goals: Lucas Brewer, Kevin Nugent

Assist: Kenny Bertz

Saves: Mike Vessells (2), Andy Mortek (4)

Shots on Goal: Team Dayton (13), SC Baltimore (6)