

2010 STATE CUP CHAMPIONS



In June 2010, the Heartland Rush U13 Boys team won the prestigious Iowa State Cup competition for the first time. Securing the State Cup is a great achievement for the boys and for the club in general. This was the 10th time that a Heartland Soccer Club team has earned a berth in a State Cup Championship match and the 6th success since 2005 – a feat that shows the strength in depth and consistency at Heartland.

From here the Rush march on to Dayton, Ohio on June 26th to face top quality opposition in the US Youth Soccer Regional Championships. On behalf of everyone here at Heartland, we wish the boys all the best in the tournament and in the coming season.



The Road to State Cup.

The U-13 Rush's successful season began when they were crowned champions of the Toyota Indoor State Cup in March. It was a tremendous achievement for the boys, and it gave them confidence for the spring season to come.

The spring season started with the CRSA Chill-Out Tournament. With very little time to prepare for the tournament due to weather, the boys came together with a different formation. The formation proved to be the best fit for the Rush as they made it to the finals of the tournament. They finished as runners-up in the tournament, and it would be their only defeat for the spring season.

As the spring season continued into May, the Rush entered into the Des Moines Menace Invitational Tournament. The 13 boys of Heartland came into the tournament with great confidence and poise. The Rush battled through group play and eventually took the Championship, which prepared them for the upcoming State Cup Tournament.

State Cup Championship Review

With a very successful spring season already under their belts, the defining moment was to be crowned State Cup Champions. However, it was going to be a challenge every step of the way. Heartland Rush's first game was against Ankeny Rush, whom they defeated 3 to 0. The second game proved to be a test for the Heartland 13 boys. The Rush always had the lead by a goal but Ames did not give up easily. The end result was 4 to 3, one of the tightest games that the 13 boys played, but it put the team in the driver's seat for the next game against Dubuque. The next morning was a bit of a challenge for the U'13 boys of Heartland. The Rush went down a goal in the first half of play, something to which they were not accustomed. However, the second half of the game changed direction as they dominated the run of play and eventually put in the equalizing goal. The Heartland U-13 Rush finished first in their group; this put them in position to play VSA 13's boy in the semi-finals.

The Heartland U-13 Rush went into the semi-finals of State Cup with a ton of confidence. The ball was quickly put in the back of net by Jacob Sarasin, who bagged another shortly after. Nick Keochner added his name to the score sheet as well which made the score 3 to zero. Nate Deaton scored the final goal for the Rush, as he easily dribbled past 3 defenders and tucked the ball away in the far corner. The 13 boys finished the half 4 to zero. Heartland went into the second half with the idea of slowing the game down and possessing the ball. The goal was met until Ankeny put away a consolation goal to end the game 4 to 1.

The Rush met a familiar opponent in the final - Dubuque. The game started off poorly as Heartland gave up a goal in first minute of the game. However they collected their thoughts and composure and by the 20th minute, Sam Hanzelka put a screamer of a goal outside the 18. The 13 boys went into the second half with

confidence to the put the game away and by the 50th minute Ryan Walker blasted a half volley into the back of the net to make it 2 to 1. With 15 minutes to play Dubuque came back to tie the game 2 to 2 which sent the game to overtime.

The first half of overtime the Rush still controlled most of the ball and had plenty of chances to end the game. It wasn't until the 2nd half of overtime that Stephen Jones finished a ball outside the 18, hitting the post and going in. That was enough for the Heartland U13 Rush to clinch State Cup Championship, over Dubuque 3 to 2.

