



## Western United Under 16 Girls Win Massachusetts Presidents Cup

The Western United u16 girls recently captured the Massachusetts Presidents Cup at the Mass Youth Soccer Complex in Lancaster, MA. The under 16 girl's team from Western Massachusetts was faced with the difficult task of playing the Division 1 MAPLE Explosion Team that had dominated the Stars of Mass-W to advance to the final.

An outstanding defensive effort in the first half kept the Western United Girls in the game led by an amazing performance by substitute goalkeeper Danielle Savoie (Cathedral). She was supported by a tenacious group of defenders including Liz Weithofer (East Longmeadow), Jess Kazyaka (East Longmeadow), Abby Monette (Minnechaug), Brianna Kenney (Longmeadow) and Amber Rose (Hampshire Regional).

Despite unseasonably hot temperatures and limited bench strength, the Western United midfield led by Kara Peters (Agawam), Becca Mercieri (East Longmeadow), and Brittany Lund (Monson) dominated the Explosion side.

Facing elimination, the WU girls turned up the attack in the opening five minutes of the second half. After a key defensive play by Liz Weithofer, Western United turned a 3 on 3 counter attack into a game changing moment as striker Jenna Fisher (Longmeadow) hit a left foot shot into the upper ninety to stun the heavily favored Explosion team and fans. The WU girls continued to dominate ball possession and frustrated the opponent with their speed and ball control. With five minutes remaining speedy striker, Kiley Cleveland (Athol) beat two players and fed to Devon Wolfenden who set up Jenna Fisher for the insurance goal.

Teammates Tilly Taylor (Frontier Regional), Mia Cambi (Longmeadow), Meg Campbell (Cathedral), Victoria Knight (East Longmeadow) and Rachel Siegel (Longmeadow) will be returning to the line-up for the trip to Saratoga, New York for the USYSA Region 1 Championship on May 29<sup>th</sup>. The Region 1 Champions will advance to the Nation Finals in Nashville, TN on July 8<sup>th</sup>.





**Front Row Left to Right:** Amber Rose, Victoria Knight, Becca Mercieri, Danielle Savoie, Kara Peters, Jenna Fisher, Jess Kazyaka, Kiley Cleveland

**Back Row Left to Right:** Mia Cambi, Niki Decaro, Brittany Lund, Rachel Siegel, Abby Monette, Brianna Kenney, Liz Weithofer, Devon Wolfenden, Tilly Taylor, Meghan Campbell, Coach Fisher.