



Portage Soccer Club Teams Shine at Tournament

Five Portage Soccer Club teams came away with honors at the Portage Soccer Classic June 8-10 at the Portage Soccer Complex. Team photos are shown below.

The youngest team, coached by Al Hamilton and Mike Nemeth, was the only U10 girls team to go undefeated. The girls outscored their opponents 14-4, including a 3-2 victory over their nearest competitor, the Waterford Lady Warriors. Other victories came over two different Kentwood Falcons teams, one of the stronger clubs at the tournament this year.

The U10 boys Gold team earned some glory of their own after being overshadowed in the regular WMYSA season by the U10 boys Green team that went undefeated while “playing up” a year in the U11 league. The Gold team went undefeated in the Tournament and showed how much progress they’ve made with coaches Vu Le and Dan Wolfe this year. The boys defeated the Kentwood Falcons, Mason Blitz, and Kalamazoo Crew to earn their undefeated status.

Portage Soccer Club's U14 boys team won the Portage Soccer Classic by defeating the Kentwood Falcons 4-1 in the championship game. The team also defeated the Georgetown Rangers and East Lansing Extreme, while playing highly regarded Okemos United to a hard fought draw. In a division consisting of 10 strong teams, including the Charlotte Scorpions, Lansing SC, Kingdom Reserves, SWM Kickers, and Metro Fire, this Portage Lightning squad coached by David Groves and Charles Fritz had good reason to be proud of their first-place trophies.

The PSC U16 girls team surprised the Jr. Irish of South Bend 2-0 in pool play Friday evening, but the Jr. Irish prevailed in the championship match Sunday afternoon. Even so, local observers were happy to see the Portage Lightning hold their own against a strong premier team from Indiana. The Portage girls, coached by Blake Glass and David Rice, controlled the ball most of the match, but the Jr. Irish converted on two restarts 25 yards directly in front of the goal, and that was the difference.

The marquee match of the tournament was the U19 men’s championship. The Portage Soccer Club team used skill and athleticism to cruise through their bracket with victories over Kalamazoo, the Marauders, and the Kingdom Boyz, while a tournament-only team consisting of a number of returning Portage college players did the same in the other bracket. In the final, an unusually large crowd was treated to an impressive display of soccer by both teams, with the PSC team prevailing narrowly, 2-1. This Portage Lightning squad also went undefeated in WMYSA play this spring, outscoring opponents 36-1.

PSC tryouts are the week of June 18 – 21. Youth players from any city or school district are eligible to play. More information about tryouts and about the Portage Soccer Club experience is available at www.portagesoccer.com. The club fee of \$270/yr includes a complete uniform (two jerseys, shorts, socks) as well as all field rental and referee fees. The first 300 players to arrive at tryouts will receive a free t-shirt to wear and keep. The primary focus of the Portage Soccer Club is player development. Licensed coaches are appointed because they are dedicated and because they know the game and just as importantly, they know how to teach. The Portage Soccer Club is a non-profit organization that puts the interests of the players first and foremost.



Portage Soccer Club U10 girls, standing from left: Ashley Kirby, Lesley Lurges, Jennifer Hamilton, Hannah Nelson, and Kourtnee Heath; sitting: Katherine Wu, Michaela Pope, Anna Nemeth, Sydney Fillar, and McKenzie VandeWeerd. Not pictured are coaches Al Hamilton and Mike Nemeth.



Portage Soccer Club U10-Gold boys, back row from left: Dan Wolfe (coach), Daniel Kellberg, Chase Sherman, Tre Humes, Evan Kish, Austin Zeitler, Noah Wolfe, & Vu Le (coach); front row: Evan Held, Parker Beach, Joe Semus III, Lewis Kordupel, and Mitchell Vanderlaan.



Portage Soccer Club U14 boys, back row from left: asst coach Charles Fritz, Dylan Vuckovich, Bobby Clyne, Dan Juzwiak, Zach Alkhamis, Chris Bejcek, Sam Schira, Colin Sullivan, Kyle Stewart, and Coach David Groves; front row (kneeling): Michael Ulrich, Michael McGregor, Colin Rooney, Mike Smodic, Ryan Kuiper, Mike Wise, Willie Vorbrich, Luis Rodriguez, Spencer McKee.



Portage Soccer Club U19 men, back row (standing, from left): coach John McKenzie, Lance Shave, Will Perry, Justin Rhodes, Joe Huczek, and Nick Kroll; middle row: Ben Orchanian, Chris Verschoof, Brent Zeitler, Matt Toepper, Viet Le, and Ryan McClish; front row: Nick Wester and Mike Murray.