The U16 Girls and the U18 Girls won State Cup titles this weekend at Cownie Soccer Complex in Des Moines and have earned the opportunity to represent the state of Iowa at the Regional Championship tournament next June, which will be played in Des Moines.

The U18 girls started off their State Cup championship run with a convincing first round win against Dubuque (7-0), followed by a 3-0 victory over the #2 seeded JUSC/WDMSC team. The final brought the Rush up against the #1 seeded CRSA/ISC and after a scoreless first-half, Rush was able to score 2 goals late in the second half to seal the win and the State Cup Championship. A few of these players won a State Cup title in 2011 as u17s, many of the others won in 2010 when they were u14s and have represented the State at Regionals before, but they are very deserving of the opportunity to do so again! The 18's are pictured at right.

Senior Captain Aubree Larson offered these thoughts on the experience of winning State Cup: "I am a member of a team and I rely on the team. I defer to it and sacrifice for it, because the team, not the individual is the ultimate champion." This Mia Hamm quote exemplifies the season my team has had. Through the season, the team has learned that success is not simply about an individual, whether you are a parent, player or coach; but is about coming together as a team. We have attained unity through the Rush's three core values: compete, technical and teamwork. With these three values in mind, we have pushed each other and ourselves to become better players and better people. In becoming better players, we have also held ourselves to higher standards such as winning both our MRL division and State Cup. Our team will not be satisfied with achieving these two feats, but will only be content when we execute and perform to the best of our abilities.

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The U16 girls' road to the State Cup championship included a semi-final win against CRSA/ISC (3-1) after having a bye in the first round based on last year's results. The final game was played Saturday, October 27th against WDMSC and ended in regulation 1-1 before Rush scored 2 goals in the first overtime period to go up 3-1 and win the title. This was the team's first State Cup Championship and a well-deserved one, they are pictured at right with coach Paul Fabry!

The environment at the games this weekend was great- with a lot of support from club members, both players and parents- who showed up to watch the State Cup teams compete. Iowa Rush will have another opportunity to support these teams in June 2013 when the Regional tournament is held in Des Moines and hosted by the Iowa Soccer Association at Cownie Soccer Complex.

Once again, CONGRATULATIONS to the U16 and U18 players for their State Cup Championships!

~~Click here for a list of State Cup Winners/Runners up for the 2012/13 season.~~

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