



The Colorado Rush U18 girls knew that their 2nd group match at the USYS National Championship Tournament was going to be a tough one. Having played the side from FC Stars of Massachusetts on a number of occasions in the past few years, the Rush girls were familiar with their opponent. The fact that this Rush team had never come away with a win against FC Stars gave the Colorado girls additional motivation on top of the nerves that naturally come with playing for the Francis J. Kelly Cup. Our side put that energy to good use as soon as the ball was first put in play. Within the opening minutes of play the Stars goal was under pressure, forcing their goalkeeper to make plays to keep Rush from an early advantage. The Rush girls continually put together nice combinations of passes to work through the Region I champion's defense, but it was a solo effort in the 15th minute by Kaitlyn Bassett that put the first tally on the board. Bassett received the ball near the middle of the field, 25 yards from goal before beating 3 defenders and striking the ball past the helpless keeper. Rush goalkeeper, Molly Polletto, was not nearly as busy on Thursday as she was the day before. Today she was only called upon twice to make the save, however in the 30th minute she was able to preserve the clean sheet with a deflection from full stretch to her right to push a powerful shot bound for the back of the net up and over the crossbar. Minutes later the Massachusetts keeper was forced to match Polletto's effort when Denali Murnan fired a shot towards the upper corner only to be denied by a great save. The 2nd half read much like the 1st with the majority of the possession taking place either at mid field or with Rush on the attack. Rush players Haley Stading and Kelsey Loupee both found the upright on the goal to be cruel on shots in the 51st and 74th minutes. The Stars goalkeeper continued to keep hope alive for her side until the 87th minute when Bassett drew the attention of numerous defenders and the goalkeeper left of the goal. Quickly recognizing the situation she delivered a cheeky back heel pass to Stading who sealed the 2-0 victory for the Rush girls. Although Rush will play one more group match on Friday against Team Boca from Florida, they have already earned enough points to ensure a spot in Sunday's championship game.



In the late game, a long time dream of Rush President and C.E.O. Tim Schulz came true as for the first time, two Rush teams squared off at the National Championships as the U17 New Mexico Rush squared off with the U17 Florida Rush boys. After a scoreless first half that saw both teams create a few chances, the Florida Rush boys from Region III scored three unanswered second half goals scored by Adam Tran, Felipe Oliveira and Andrew Spragg to win the All-Rush battle. The loss sends the NM Boys to their second loss and ends their run at a national championship. The Florida Rush boys are still alive to play in the championship game but will need a Friday night win against TSC Black out of Oklahoma (a team they beat in the Region III Championship game) and help in the other final day games.

U17 Boys Schedule

Rush Club	Opponent	Game Time/Date	Score
New Mexico Rush	Penn Fusion (PA-E)	8:00PM - 07.27.11	L 3-1
Florida Rush	Grand Rapids Crew Juniors (MI)	8:00PM - 07.27.11	L 4-0
New Mexico Rush	Florida Rush	8:00PM - 07.28.11	L 0-3
Florida Rush	New Mexico Rush	8:00PM - 07.28.11	W 3-0
Florida Rush	TSC Black 9 (OK)	8:00PM - 07.29.11	
New Mexico Rush	Dallas Texans Red (TX-N)	8:00PM - 07.29.11	
National Championship	TBD	9:30AM - 07.31.11	

U18 Girls Schedule

Rush Club	Opponent	Game Time/Date	Score
Colorado Rush	FC Milwaukee (WI)	8:00AM - 07.27.11	W 1-0
Colorado Rush	FC Stars of Massachusetts (MA)	8:00AM - 07.28.11	W 2-0
Colorado Rush	Team Boca (FL)	8:00AM - 07.29.11	
National Championship	TBD	7:45AM - 07.31.11	