

## Livermore Fusion Team Wins "Best of the Best" Soccer Tournament!

The Surf Cup is one of the US Youth Soccer League's most prestigious tournaments. In early August, the Livermore Fusion U17 Premier Girls Team traveled to Oceanside, California to compete in the 36th annual Surf Cup against the "Best of the Best".

They returned home as tournament Champions!

The Surf Cup featured elite teams from across the US. In group play, the Fusion girls faced three formidable opponents: the #1 team from Arizona, a PDP team from New Jersey, and a So Cal regular. The Fusion Girls won their group matches and moved on to the semi-finals, where they faced the local favored team, Real So Cal.

With thousands of spectators looking on, including about 500 college coaches, the Fusion team played at their peak. Creating multiple chances and only allowing one shot on target all game, Fusion dominated regulation play which ended 0-0. Early in the overtime period, Fusion's Kamy Farro launched a perfectly-floated cross to the back post, which Hannah Fleshman headed beautifully into the net. The Fusion girls held on to win 1-0.

In the championship match, Fusion faced Arsenal ECNL, an IR Academy Club from Southern California. Reduced to 13 players, Fusion faced a huge challenge. Would the girls have enough in the tank, playing short-handed, to defeat an extremely talented opponent?

Working free from pressure, Aly Silva played a beautiful ball through on goal to Cassidy Bates, who fired a powerful strike to the corner. The Arsenal ECNL Keeper deflected the ball straight to Lauren Cambra, who tucked away the ball for a 1-0 halftime lead.

Fusion maintained control of the game through the second half. After a fantastic tackle in midfield, the Fusion counter-attack created a great goal opportunity for Hannah Fleshman, giving Fusion a 2-0 lead. Arsenal ECNL pressed for a comeback, but the Fusion squad held firm, winning 2-0.

Throughout the game the girls displayed teamwork, sacrifice, camaraderie, passion and determination.

Every player of this team will remember this fantastic achievement for the rest of their lives.

Congratulations to the Livermore Fusion '00 Team:

Surf Cup Champions and now ranked #13 in the nation !!

pictured from top left: Kamy Farro, Camille LaBlanc, Nicole Fairbanks, Nikki Trucco, Lexi Trucco, Ben Graham (Director of Coaching), Hanna Fleshman, Alora Garcia, and Madison Hood

bottom row, from left: Hailey Hahlbeck, Cassidy Bates, Lindsay Harnish, Lauren Cambra, and Aly Silva

(not pictured: Giselle Barajas and Justine Thomas)

