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## Javanon is national champion

Louisville-based soccer club takes U-19 crown with 3-2 win

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The Courier-Journal

Nine years ago the Javanon 87 team made a promise to Ali Ahmadi, founder of Louisville's Javanon Soccer Club and its coach at the time.

"They gave me a T-shirt," Ahmadi said. "They signed it and wrote a statement on it, and today they did what they said they would do when they were 9-year-old boys."

**Advertisement** Javanon 87 won the 19-and-under U.S. Youth Soccer national championship yesterday afternoon in Des Moines, Iowa, with a 3-2 victory over Arsenal FC from Southern California.

Javanon 87 became the second Javanon team to win a national championship and the first at the U-19 level.

"Everybody was excited, running around, crying, hugging everybody," coach Bruce Yeagle said. "It doesn't get any better."

The game started in familiar fashion for Javanon, which had dominated games all season.

The team went into halftime with a 2-0 lead. Danny Walcott scored in the fifth minute on a cross from Chad Hagerty.

Walcott finished the championship tournament with three goals.

Dustin Downey scored the game's second goal just before halftime in the 43rd minute.

"We were pretty much controlling the game," Yeagle said.

But Arsenal produced a furious rally near the end of the game.

With 16 minutes left in regulation, Javanon keeper Patrick Pittenger was red-carded for tripping an Arsenal player. Arsenal scored on the ensuing penalty kick and played the rest of the game 11 on 10.

When Javanon midfielder Darren Yeagle scored on an assist from fullback Tony Ray to extend the lead to 3-1 in the 89th minute, the Kentucky team thought it could relax. But Arsenal refused to give in and scored immediately afterward.

Javanon held off Arsenal's attacks for three minutes of stoppage time to take home the trophy.

Darren Yeagle, with four goals, won the tournament's golden boot award.

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