

## Louisville Rolls out Red Carpet to Champions

08/10/2006 -

**Dedicated group complete youth career with soccer's oldest youth sport trophy  
Louisville Mayor Abramson presents keys to the city and more**

Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson presented the 2006 US Youth Soccer Under-19 Boys National Champions with a key to the city and a plaque honoring each player and coach as a distinguished citizen during the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association Annual General Meeting.



"Congratulations to the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association, Louisville's Javanon Soccer Club and particularly to the Javanon 87 team's players and coaches for winning the 2006 US Youth Soccer Under-19 National Championship last weekend in Des Moines, Iowa," said Mayor Abramson.

The Javanon 87 team is only the second team from Kentucky to win a US Youth Soccer National Championship. Javanon 87 won the Kentucky State Cup seven of the past eight years. In 2003, Javanon 87 won their first US Youth Soccer Region II Championship and advanced to the US Youth Soccer National Championships where they placed third.

Many of the players have been together since they were nine years old and many played in high school together. Now as Under-19s there are 13 members of the team who play on NCAA Division I soccer teams.

They came back for their last chance at a national title and were rewarded for their effort. They are winners of the oldest and most prestigious cup in youth sport. The James P. McGuire Cup is the oldest trophy in youth sport dating back to 1935 with the inaugural youth championships. This is the 71st anniversary of the storied cup.

"These players and their coaches set their sights on the national championship this year and they won it. They had the discipline and determination to win. They showed the courage and character – as well as the soccer skills – on the playing field," Abramson said. "They are also excellent ambassadors for our city, for their club, and for the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association. The City of Louisville is proud to be the home of the 2006 US Youth Soccer Under-19 Boys National Champions."

Also awarded the key to the city and distinguished citizenship were head coach Bruce Yeagle, assistant coaches Dan Walcott, Val Bole and Derrick Yeagle, team manager Debbie Walcott, and founder and general manager of the Javanon Soccer Club Ali Ahmadi.

Ahmadi was the Javanon 87's first soccer coach when the players were nine years old. Ahmadi said that the players told him back then that they were going to win the national championship.

"That just goes to show you how important it is for all of you in Kentucky Youth Soccer to continue encouraging youth players to set their sights on the highest goal...because they might just achieve it," Abramson said.

The Javanon 87 team as well as all of the teams, 48, who qualified for the 2006 US Youth Soccer National Championships, will be featured on the US Youth Soccer National Championships Highlight Show presented by adidas on Fox Soccer Channel. The two-hour program will air tomorrow night, Friday August 11, at 8:00 PM ET and offer game highlights, 84 games played, from the recently completed national championships, feature stories and interviews.

The 2006 US Youth Soccer National Championships caps a yearlong series of events beginning at the state level of play. The US Youth Soccer National Championship Series is the country's most prestigious national youth soccer tournament, providing over 185,000 players on more than 10,000 teams from US Youth Soccer's 55 state associations the opportunity to showcase their soccer skills against the best competition in the nation while emphasizing teamwork, discipline and fair play.

2006 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the under-16 boys D.J. Niotis Cup and 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the under-17 girls Laura Moynihan Cup. The James P. McGuire Cup is the oldest trophy in youth sport dating back to 1935 with the inaugural youth championships. The under-19 boys age group as the National Champion will hoist the McGuire Cup. This is the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the storied cup.

For more information on the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series please visit <http://championships.usyouthsoccer.org> and for more on US Youth Soccer and the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association please visit [www.USYouthSoccer.org](http://www.USYouthSoccer.org).

**Photo Note:**

Back Row - Left to Right

Mayor Jerry Abramson, Kentucky Youth Soccer Association President Tim Turney, Mitch Green, Adam Boyer, Tony Ray, Zack Hagan, Aaron Parker, Tommy Clines, Assistant Coach Dan Walcott

Front Row - Left to Right

Team Manager Debbie Walcott, Head Coach Bruce Yeagle, Patrick Pittenger, Danny Walcott, Rahman Batanovic, Dustin Downey, Landry Gray, Darren Yeagle, Javanon General Manager Ali Ahmadi

Not pictured: Players Chris Baumann, Bradley Frederick, Chad Hagerty, Jordan Terry, Glenn Volk, Ian Willmot, and Assistant Coaches Val Bole and Derrick Yeagle