

## 2004 National Championship Results - 1986 Boys U17

Team	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
I - ENY - Albertson Red Storm Clash	1	2	0	3	5	3
II - MO - Scott Gallagher	3	0	0	6	1	9
III - FL - Weston Fury	1	1	1	5	5	4
IV - CS - ISC Strikers	0	2	1	2	5	1

DATE	TIME	FIELD	HOME	SCORE	VISITOR	SCORE
7/20	6:00 P	A	I - ENY - Albertson Red Storm Clash	1	IV - CS - ISC Strikers	0
7/20	6:00 P	B	II - MO - Scott Gallagher	2	III - FL - Weston Fury	0
7/21	9:30 A	C	II - MO - Scott Gallagher	2	IV - CS - ISC Strikers	0
7/21	9:30 A	D	III - FL - Weston Fury	3	I - ENY - Albertson Red Storm Clash	1
7/23	7:30 A	C	II - MO - Scott Gallagher	1	I - ENY - Albertson Red Storm Clash	0
7/23	7:30 A	D	IV - CS - ISC Strikers	2	III - FL - Weston Fury	2
7/25	9:30 A	A	<b>II - MO - Scott Gallagher</b>	2 OT	III - FL - Weston Fury	1

### Before the tournament starts - July 19, 2004: Short-Handed Clash Ready To Overcome One Last Challenge

The Albertson Red Storm Clash faces its biggest challenge of perhaps its entire existence this week.

It's not just because the Clash will be participating in the U.S. Youth Soccer Association Boys Under-17 national championships. The team did it last year, finishing in second place.

It's because the Clash will be vying for a national title with several key players sidelined for one reason or another.

Among the missing are forward Michael Grella, who is training with the U-18 National Team in Milwaukee, right defender Brian Yetman and central midfielder Garrett Knese, who began his tenure with the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy already, and central midfielder Michael Somma, who sprained ligaments in his knee at the Region 1 championships.

"If we push him, that's the wrong thing to do," coach David Price said of Somma. "We want to have him healthy for other games and tournaments.

"When you go to the nationals, you can't carry a player. You can't do it."

The Clash open up against the ISC Strikers (California South) in the start of the first-round round-robin competition at the Disney Wide World of Sports in Orlando, Fla. at 6 p.m. on Tuesday.

They continue their quest against Weston (Fla.) at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday and vs. Scott Gallagher S.C. (Mo.) at 7:30 a.m. on Friday.

The first- and second-place sides will play for the U-17 crown on Sunday.

Despite the missing players, Price has refused to throw in the towel.

"Our expectations are very high," he said. "We're going down there to win. If you go down there with negative thoughts, you're not going to win."

"We're going to draw on the setbacks we've had over the last four years. We've bounced back."

Price said the team attitude is "very positive. It's going to go well. We've always had a knack as a team to overcome adversity. It's never been easy for us. But its a great motivational and competitive thing. Hopefully, the spirit will carry us through."

So, with only 11 healthy bodies, Price has had to tinker with his strategy if the Clash is to thrive, let alone thrive in the central Florida heat in July. Instead of going on attack as often as he would like, the Clash will be forced to make best use of when it has the ball.

"We're not going to be as quick going forward or as high-pressured," he said. "We're not going to be pretty at all."

Price has asked U.S. Soccer to release Grella, but so far it has fallen on deaf ears. If the Clash reaches Sunday's final, Grella might be available.

"Michael's got a bit of quality as a player," Price said. "He also brings an added relief to the team when things are not going right. We're going to miss that."

"If we get to the finals, the National Team believes they might be able to release Michael. We'll see."

The Clash is the only team to return from last year's nationals. But Price, a veteran coach, does not take anything for granted.

"From what we've heard so far everyone is just a top-notch team," he said. "The national champion last year came from Southern California, so the Southern California team has to be very, very strong if they beat them."

Price realized it will be a difficult hill to climb, but not impossible.

"It's a big, big challenge, a big task," he said. "It's up to me to organize the team."

"We'll see what we can pull out of the bag."

From the adidas Elite Soccer Program (ESP), held from July 6-11 at the Loomis Chaffee School.

**Striker - Michael Grella** -- The book on him coming into camp was that he is "good when he is on, and average when he is not." Well, he was certainly on this past week, scoring several goals, including a well-placed shot into the top left corner in the first half of the All-Star Game on Saturday night. Though only listed at 5-11, 155 pounds, the U-18 National Team and Albertson striker showed his ability to hold off any defender, and use his power off the dribble when going to goal. His fiery personality helped raise the level of his teammates all week, as well. The University of Maryland is said to be a front-runner for his services.

## **U17 Boys – Day One**

**Albertson Red Storm Clash (Eastern New York) 1:0 ISC Strikers (Cal-S)**

Goal Scorers: Thomas Lobben (Alberston) 6:00

**Scott Gallagher (Missouri) 2:0 Weston (Florida)**

Goal Scorers: Theodore Novak (Scott Gallagher) 30:00, James Dickson (Scott Gallagher) 43:00

## **U17 Boys – Day Two**

### **Scott Gallagher (Missouri) 2:0 ISC Strikers (California South)**

Field C U-17B Scott Gallagher (Missouri) 2, ISC Strikers (California South) 0

Goal Scorers: Brandon Barklage (Scott Gallagher) 9:00, Timothy Walters (Scott Gallagher) 84:00

Solid defense and some attractive football provided the recipe for Gallagher, who are in the driver's seat for qualification for the championship match, while Strikers are eliminated from contention.

The Missouri team crafted a lovely goal in the 10th minute, stringing together 5 one-touch passes in front of the net including the final three from Brandon Barklage to Tim Walters to Conor Neusel and then back to Barklage who chipped the keeper to put Scott Gallagher up 1-0.

Strikers did not go gently and in fact forged a penalty kick early in the 2nd half when Marcos Flores dribbled into the box and was pulled down. The resulting spot kick was saved by Aaron Johnson however, and while Strikers kept pressing, they didn't get a better chance than that.

Gallagher had a few 1 on 1 opportunities in the 2nd half, and finally put the game away when Michael Kemp spotted a strong run from Walters, played a perfect pass to him and Walters provided an across-the-body finish to make the final score 2-0.

Flores and Eric Mendoza put in good shifts for Irvine. Walters said the Scott Gallagher team benefits from having played together a long time.

"We've been soccer since we were U13 and ping-pong the ball around like this," Walters said. "We know each other pretty well and where one another will be. I should have finished two earlier in the game so I had to make up for it with that one. We have some butterflies at the beginning of the game but we feel we should be here and we're confident we're one of the best in the country."

### **Weston (Florida) 3:1 Albertson Red Storm Clash (Eastern New York)**

Field D U-17B Weston (Florida) 3, Albertson Red Storm Clash (Eastern New York) 1

Goal Scorers: Islam Rashwan (Weston) 28:00, Enrique Caceres (Alberston) 53:00, Michael Mattson (Weston) 73:00, Robert Campbell (Weston) 92:00

Weston and Albertson are both still alive after this match. Islam Rashwan, Michael Mattson and Robert Campbell found the back of the net for the Florida team. Enrique Caceres scored for Red Storm.

## **U17 Boys – Day Three**

### **Scott Gallagher (Missouri) 1:0 Albertson Red Storm Clash (Eastern New York)**

The St. Louis team remained perfect with a 64th minute strike from Joseph Sondag.

### **Irvine SC Strikers (California South) 2:2 Weston (Florida)**

Emanuel Chacon scored a 71st equalizer for Weston, which will now advance to the title game against Scott Gallagher.

Marcos Flores and Bryant Pugmire scored for Strikers, with Christian Jerome also scoring for the Florida team. Weston coach Alvin James said his team is looking forward to the rematch.

”It will be interesting to see how they do because we are used to training in these conditions,” James said. “They are a very good team. A lot of people didn’t know who we were before the season started but we’re determined that people will know about Weston when this is over.”

## **U17 Boys – Day Four - Championship Match:**

### **Weston Fury SC 1:2 Scott Gallagher SC - OT**

Tim Walters scored the golden goal for Scott Gallagher, his second goal of the match.

A throw in from Tim Gabel went into the box, and Jim Dickson kept it alive with a header before Walters pounced for the winner.

Weston's Islam Rashwan had scored a lovely goal for Weston in the 79th minute, taking a Rod Hidalgo pass from just outside the area and letting go with a screamer into the back of the net, canceling a first half strike from Walters.

The win was a team effort but Walters impressed throughout the tournament with a predator's instinct for goal and a mathematician's grasp of positioning. Memo to college coaches: TAKE A LOOK AT THIS PLAYER.

"You couldn't dream one up like that," Walters said of the game-winner. "I knew if it hit the ground I was getting to it. We always had the heart to come through this."

### **After Day Three - July 23, 2004: Clash Fall Short Of National Finals**

It just wasn't meant to be.

The Albertson Red Storm Clash fell short in their attempt to reach the age group finals at the U.S. Youth Soccer Association nationals in Orlando, Fla. on Friday.

The Clash lost to group champion Scott Gallagher S.C. (3-0-0, nine points) of Missouri in the Boys Under-17 division at Disney Wide World of Sports in a game that kicked off at 7:30 a.m.

In Boys U-17 action, Joseph Sondag tallied in the 64th minute for Gallagher (3-0-0) against the short-handed Clash (1-2-0, three), which had to use its backup goalkeeper as a field player because it had no substitutes due to injuries and National Team commitments.

Gallagher will meet Weston (1-1-1, four) for the title on Sunday. The ISC Strikers (California South) played Weston (Florida) to a 2-2 tie.

Marcos Flores gave the Strikers (0-2-1, two) a 1-0 lead six minutes into the match, but Christian Jerome struck back for Weston in the 20th minute. Again the Strikers took the lead on a Bryant Pugmire goal in the 56th minute, but Emanuel Chacon tied it up for Weston in the 71st minute.