

## **FREMONT LIGHTNING STATE CHAMPS!**

This year turned out to be the year for the Fremont Lightning U14 girl's team. These girls showed incredible dedication and devotion to the sport of soccer. They have been practicing since late July to earn the respect of each other and the league. They have practiced in the heat, in the rain and in freezing weather conditions to get their chance again at the state championship. Last year, they came up one goal short in the state championship game – that was not to be this year. With the temperature in the high 30s, this group of girls came prepared to play.

Fremont played Hampstead in a great game. Both teams played hard with each of their goalies playing a huge role in the game. Amanda Turco for Fremont, had some tremendous saves which may have surprised those who didn't know her or haven't seen her play, but for those of us that have depended on her throughout the season, she didn't let us down. In league semi finals, finals and in the state finals she didn't allow any goals. The Fremont pressure from the halfbacks and offense was just too much for the Hampstead team to stop. Becky Pettis made a great pass into Becky Begley who was able to redirect the ball into the side netting in the goal to give Fremont the go-ahead goal. Fremont won the match 1-0.

A lot of the team's success can be tied to their defense. Ashley Froton, Ellen Rislove, Kimmy DiManna, Nadine Amato and Chelsea Angus have prevented many teams even an opportunity for a shot. These girls are proof positive of the saying that "Defense wins Championships". In the twenty one games the team has played, the combination of the defense and goalie have only allowed nine goals. In those twenty one games, only one opponent has scored more than one goal.

We know you can't be the victor of a game without making key plays. That is where the Fremont team outplayed many of their opponents. The midfield players for Fremont are Jillian Richard, Abby Smith, Chelsea Ouellette, Becky Pettis and Katie Upton. Fremont has goal scorers; there are eight of them who have scored more than two goals throughout the year. Many of those goals can be attributed to the girls dominating the play in the center third of the field, the midfielders.

Along with the saying "Defense wins Championships" there is another saying, "Offense sells tickets". The Fremont offense was led by Jessica Plante, Becky Begley, Kate Mahoney, Rachel Alix and Sierra Herrmann. Between the five offensive players, they have scored twenty-six goals. These girls knew when they had to turn it on and never let their teammates down.

Some of these girls have played travel soccer for the Fremont Lightning team for six years. They have come a long way showing that when you put your mind to it, anything is possible. With any successful team there is a huge support organization that has to be recognized and this is no exception. These girls have a lot to be thankful for and huge thanks go out to their parents who without them, taking them to practices, games, indoor games, and soccer camps, none of this would be possible.

Also, over the years they have had sponsors who were recognized and some who requested anonymity and just wanted to sponsor the team for practice times and/or playoff uniforms. It is this support and the support these players received from their parents and classmates that built this team.

Here are some incredible statistics that this team accomplished this year: League record – 10 wins, 2 losses, 1 tie; Overall record including tournaments and scrimmages – 13 wins, 4 losses, 4 ties; Outscored their opponents 44 to 9; Shutouts – 11.

The members of the Fremont Lightning U14 team are Katie Upton, Kate Mahoney, Jillian Richard, Ashley Froton, Sierra Herrmann, Abby Smith, Rachel Alix, Becky Begley, Chelsea Ouellette, Amanda Turco, Chelsea Angus, Ellen Rislove, Nadine Amato, Jessica Plante, Kimmy DiManna, Becky Pettis and Coaches David Richard and Mark DiManna.



Thank you to coach David Richard for the write-up and photo!

*"In our play we reveal what kind of people we are."*

~ Ovid