



Day 1 at Regionals Sioux Falls, SD

After nine hours of travel and a good night's rest, Campton's U16 boys were ready to play in their first visit to the USYSA Regional Championship. The boys' first match was against the 2008 regional finalists, KCFC Rangers of Kansas. KCFC had just come off winning their state cup and would prove to be a soccer handful.

The game kicked off at 10am with the temperature beginning to soar towards the high 80s, making it feel on the field as if it was indeed in the 90s. The game stayed fairly even for the first half with Campton coming close a couple of times with opportunities from Tim Engel, Seamus Kaminski and Noah Anthony. The first half finished at 0-0.

KCFC began the second half pushing forward, keeping the Campton back four of Kevin Hilgart, Robbie Johnson, Eric Russell and Zander Carpanzano pinned in while goalkeeper Nate Esler was called upon to make a crucial save. Some solid defending and a little luck helped Campton weather a 10 minute storm.

Dylan Tucker, coming in off the bench, gave Campton the breath of fresh air they needed and immediately put the KCFC back four to the test with some quality attacking. Campton, regaining their legs, finally managed some better possession resulting in Tucker being fouled at the top of the 18 yard box. Carpanzano executed the free kick, playing a dangerous ball into the box. KCFC scrambled to defend as the ball bounced around the box allowing Carpanzano to get a second look at it, placing a right-footed shot to the goalkeeper's left side, giving Campton a 1-0 lead in the 65th minute.

Going down 0-1, KCFC pushed forward in a desperate effort to get the goal back as time ticked. Again Tucker saw his opportunity in the 70th minute and sent a 30 yard pass to the feet of Chris Tomek. Tomek pushed past a flat KCFC defense with pace and headed towards the goal, drawing the goalkeeper out and calmly slotting the ball past him for the 2-0 lead. Campton managed the last 10 minutes of the game and finished with a 2-0 win.

The boys will face Scott Gallagher, Missouri State champions, Sunday at 4pm.

Check out the first day highlights at <http://championships.usyouthsoccer.org>.