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Indy Burn's Eagles win 1st regional soccer title

By Nat Newell

The Pike Township-based Indy Burn '90 Boys Premier Eagles won their first U.S. Youth Soccer Region II title with a 1-0 victory over Missouri Scott Gallagher. It is the first time an Indiana boys team has advanced to the national finals in 21 years, according to Thomas Geisse of the Indy Burn. The team is one of four to advance to the national tournament in Lancaster, Mass. from July 21 to 26. "We needed to get a win," said Sean McGrath, a former Pike High School player now at the University of Notre Dame, as the Eagles have won eight consecutive state championships. "We had been to the regionals seven straight times and each year we come back without advancing out of bracket play. We had unfinished business and wanted to prove to ourselves that we have what it takes to compete with the best in the 14-state Midwest region."

The team is primarily comprised of players that have played together since the first state title in 2002. The majority of the players compete in high school soccer in the Indianapolis area and are all currently playing in college.

"I've been with this group since they were 11 and have retained 75 percent of them," coach Isang Jacob said. "I sit back and see these kids going to Harvard, Cornell, Butler, IUPUI, West Virginia.... I'm truly honored and humbled."

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