

## **Overland Park, Kansas Chosen to Host 2010 US Youth Soccer National Championships**

### **Nation's top youth soccer players to ascend on new Overland Park Soccer Complex**

**Overland Park, KS** – The best of the best are coming to Overland Park in 2010.

The United States Youth Soccer Association (US Youth Soccer) has announced that the 2010 US Youth Soccer National Championships will be played at the new Overland Park Soccer Complex, 135<sup>th</sup> and Switzer, scheduled for July 20-25, 2010.

"We are excited that the 2010 US Youth Soccer National Championships will be held at the new Overland Park Soccer Complex in Kansas. All of us look forward to working with Kansas State Youth Soccer and the complex staff," said Larry Monaco, president of US Youth Soccer. "Each year, the nation's top players look forward to another year of outstanding competition as teams earn their way from state to regional and national finals competitions, striving to be one of the top 60 teams in the country playing for the National Championship."

"We are honored to host the 2010 US Youth Soccer National Championships at the Overland Park Soccer Complex," said Mayor Carl Gerlach. "Thanks to the dedicated effort of the Overland Park Convention & Visitors Bureau sales team and city staff members, we are able to host this showcase event that will have a great economic impact on the city, especially hotels and retail shops.

"US Youth Soccer is a premiere organization. Enthusiasts will enjoy watching exceptional soccer in Overland Park," Gerlach added.

"Hosting the US Youth Soccer National Championships will be a wonderful opportunity for young players in the area to see some of the best teams in the country," said Alan Blinzler, president of the Kansas State Youth Soccer Association. Kansas State Youth Soccer Association will serve as the local organizing committee for the event.

"When the Overland Park Soccer Complex project was announced, we saw the potential this outstanding facility offered and worked closely with the City of Overland Park, and the Overland Park Convention & Visitors Bureau for over a year to secure the bid.

"The vision of the City in building this complex was to host the top events in the country and the awarding of the 2010 US Youth Soccer National Championships, the first ever such event in Kansas, speaks to that vision and quality the new complex. The result will be a chance for players and their families to learn more about the game and for literally thousands of people from across the country to see a what a great community we have in Overland Park," Blinzler added.

"The Overland Park Convention & Visitors Bureau, along with our hotel partners, are very excited to host the 2010 US Youth Soccer National Championship Series," said Kelly Peetoom, director of sales for the CVB and Overland Park Sports Alliance.

"This event will use multiple hotels and bring 5,700 room nights to Overland Park, with an estimated economic impact of \$1.5 million," Peetoom said. **THERE WILL BE 60 TEAMS**

"The tournament will bring some of the most elite players of all ages from throughout the country, in addition to collegiate coaches to our city. It speaks volumes for our future marketing

The national championships cap a yearlong series of events known as the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series where over 10,000 teams compete annually. US Youth Soccer Regional Champions and US Youth Soccer National League representatives will ascend on Overland Park for the chance to claim an heirloom in youth sport, as national champion. Annually these events provide the country's premier collegiate programs with the top stage to identify and scout the most coveted players in the nation.

Several other regional soccer organizations have toured the Overland Park facility and are considering hosting events at the complex.

The Overland Park Soccer Complex includes 12 synthetic all-weather turf fields, plaza area with shade for teams to gather, three Corner Kick Café's offering a diverse and healthy menu, electronic video boards to post game results and information, and wireless internet

access.

The Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead is across the parking lot from the fields. Retail shops are within walking distances. Most Overland Park hotels are within an easy 10-minute drive of the facility.

Nearly all tournament dates for 2009 and 2010 are filled. For more information to reserve a tournament weekend, contact Mike Laplante, soccer complex operations manager, at 913/484-5231.

Learn more about US Youth Soccer at [www.USYouthSoccer.org](http://www.USYouthSoccer.org) and for more on the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series visit <http://championships.usyouthsoccer.org>.

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