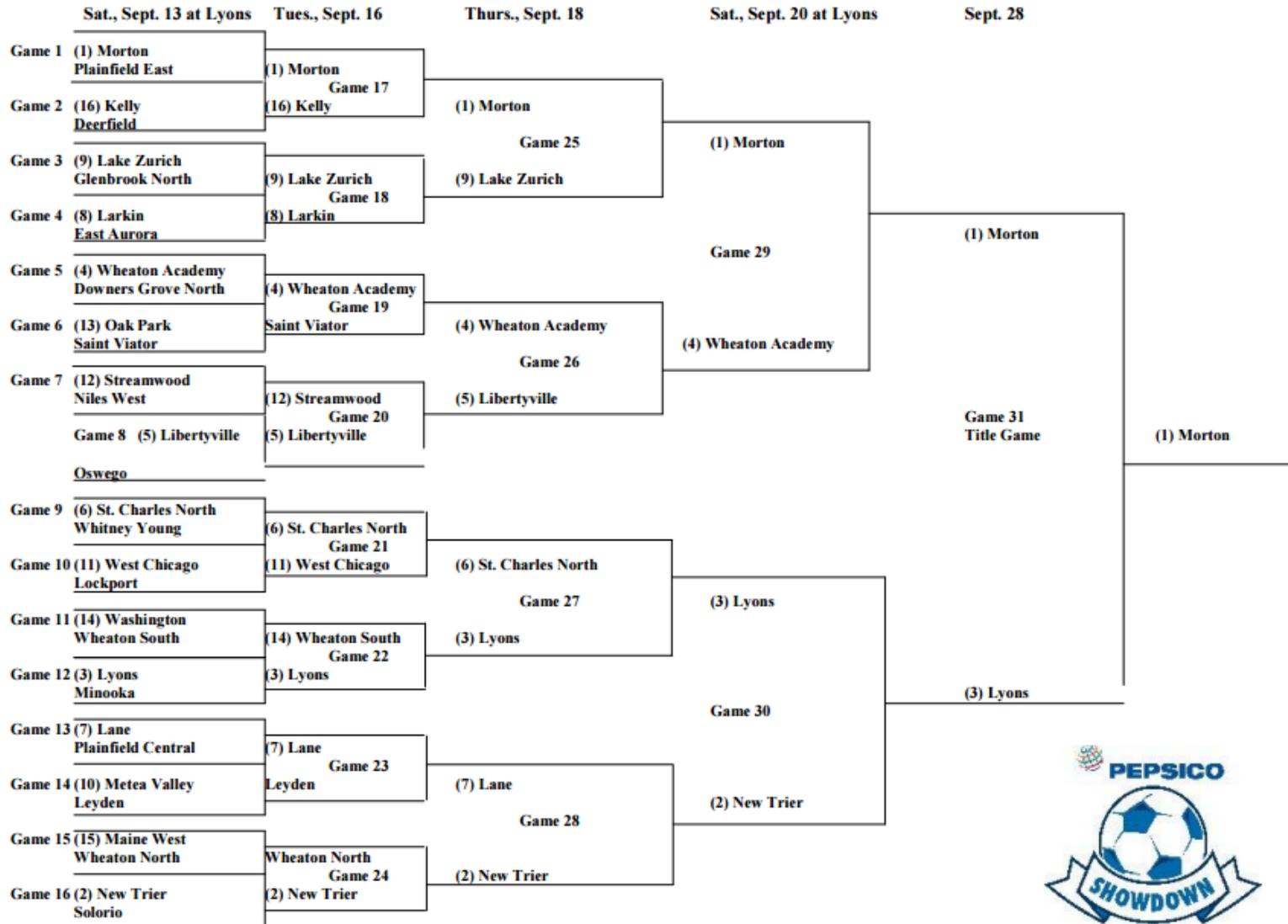


# 2014 Boy's Tournament

## 2014 PEPSICO SHOWDOWN BOYS BRACKET



\*Higher seeds hosts on 9/16; Higher seed hosts on 9/18

# COMPLETE SCHEDULE

## SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Morton 2, Wheaton Academy 0  
Lyons 1, New Trier 0  
Solorio 3, Downers Grove North 0  
Wheaton South 2, Larkin 1  
Oak Park 4, Minooka 1  
Wheaton North 1, St. Charles North 0  
Libertyville 4, Lane 0  
West Chicago 2, Kelly 1  
Streamwood 2, Lake Zurich 1 PK  
Glenbrook North 2, Oswego 1  
Plainfield East 3, Young 2  
East Aurora 1, Deerfield 0  
Washington 1, Metea Valley 0  
Fenwick 6, Plainfield Central 0  
Huntley 0, Maine West 0  
Niles West 1, Lockport 0 PK  
Saint Viator 3, Leyden 2 PK

**Team Athletico wins consolation  
challenge 15-11 over Team Aquafina**

## SATURDAY, SEPT. 13 RESULTS

West Chicago 3, Lockport 1  
Morton 5, Plainfield East 0  
Huntley 3, Fenwick 0  
Wheaton Academy 3, Downers North 0  
Libertyville 4, Oswego 1  
Lane 4, Plainfield Central 0  
Streamwood 7, Niles West 1  
Kelly 5, Deerfield 1  
Lake Zurich 2, Glenbrook North 1  
Larkin 3, East Aurora 1  
St. Charles North 1, Young 0  
Wheaton North 2, Maine West 0  
Wheaton South 3, Washington 2  
Leyden 4, Metea Valley 0  
New Trier 3, Solorio 1  
Saint Viator 3, Oak Park 0  
Lyons 6, Minooka 0

## TUESDAY, SEPT. 16 RESULTS

Morton 3, Kelly 0  
Lake Zurich 2, Larkin 1  
Wheaton Academy 2, Saint Viator 0  
Libertyville 2, Streamwood 1  
St. Charles North 3, West Chicago 2 OT  
Lyons 2, Wheaton Warrenville South 0  
Lane 1, Leyden 0 OT  
New Trier 3, Wheaton North 1  
Oak Park 1, Metea Valley 0 OT  
Washington 3, Minooka 1  
Solorio 2, Maine West 1 OT  
Fenwick 1, Glenbrook North 0 PK  
Plainfield East 2, East Aurora 0  
Deerfield 2, Huntley 1 OT  
Downers North 3, Plainfield Central 2  
Lockport 1, Oswego 0

Young 2, Niles West 1

## THURSDAY'S, SEPT. 18

Morton 2, Lake Zurich 1 OT  
Wheaton Academy 2, Libertyville 1 OT  
Lyons 4, St. Charles North 1  
New Trier 1, Lane 0  
Leyden 7, Kelly 5  
Saint Viator 1, Larkin 0  
Streamwood 3, Wheaton South 1  
Wheaton North 2, West Chicago 1  
Metea Valley 3, Fenwick 2  
Deerfield 1, Plainfield Central 0  
Niles West 2, Solorio 1  
Glenbrook North 5, Plainfield East 0  
Oak Park 3, East Aurora 0  
Maine West 3, Minooka 1  
Lockport 2, Washington 0  
Oswego 1, Huntley 0  
Downers Grove North 3, Young 2 Pk

## All-Tournament Team

### MVP

Morton senior goalie Ian Chacon. In five games, he had three shutouts, allowed a mere three goals against and record two huge saves in the championship shootout vs. Lyons.

### All-Tournament Team

Morton senior midfielder Edgar Garcia (In 5 games, 5 goals, 3 assists)

Morton junior midfielder Leo Delgado (In 5 games, 4 goals, 3 assists)

Lyons senior forward Patrick Duncan (In 5 games, 4 goals)

New Trier senior midfielder Steve Childs (In 4 games, 1 assist)

Lyons senior midfielder Harry Hilling (In 5 games, 1 goal, 2 assists)

New Trier senior forward Duncan Gill (In 4 games, 2 goals, 1 assist)

Lyons senior forward Daniel Gutierrez (In 5 games, 4 goals, 1 assist)

Wheaton Academy junior forward Ty Seager (In 4 games, 4 goals, 1 assist)

Streamwood senior forward Alan Camarena (In 4 games, 4 goals, 6 assists)

Libertyville senior defender Ryan Pachulski (In 4 games, defense allowed 5 goals, 1 shutout)

## Blogs

### Deerfield

William Schmetterer

9-21-2014

Unfortunately our last game against east Aurora did not go as we'd like it to. After dominating the entire game, we just couldn't manage to slip the ball past their goalie. It was a tough loss with a score of 1-0, but this was a great learning experience for all of us. We just continue grinding at it and smiling because there's always tomorrow, and the next day, and the day after that. It was challenging having 3-5 of our players out during the tournament because each player is critical to the flow of our playstyle. It only shows that we are and will always be a family. This tournament has guided us towards the dynamic gameplay we need in order to win conference and perhaps a regional/sectional/state title. There's a lot of soccer ahead of us and we're ready to make the most of it.

William Schmetterer

9-19-2014

The Deerfield Warriors come out winning our second game of the tournament against Planefield with a 1-0 victory. The majority of the game we found the ball to be in our opponents half. Off of a nice dead ball play, Ari Patterson went up and headed the ball into the back of the net. Matt Grady and Seth Bornstein also had some nice shots on goal that just couldn't get behind the keeper. Our keeper, Kyle Odham had his first varsity shutout and really put the team on his back. We plan to keep our 2 win streak rolling and to raise the level even more for our third match this Saturday. It's been challenging without our two senior forwards, Charlie Kogan and Parker James, who both are out due to injuries. Fortunately our team is really coming together and we're determined to make one another a better player.

William Schmetterer

9-18-2014

After a tough first loss in the Pepsico Tournament, the Deerfield Warriors bounced back with a 2-1 victory against Huntley. In the first half, our forward Jamie Ackerson threw his whole body into a dead ball play and knocked it in the back of the net. Unfortunately we gave up a goal the second half due to a lack of communication. After a long, 90 minute game, the match was still tied at 1-1. As a result, we went into a 10 minute overtime golden goal match. With just 2 minutes to go, our defender Evan Gerke took a free kick from 45 yards out - and the ball just sailed in the back of the net over the keepers head! It was a tremendous win for the Warriors and it really brought us together - there was no better definition of what it means to be family. We're heading into our 3rd match of the tournament with our heads high, feeling confident and ready than ever.

Jack Bizar

9-14-2014

We lost on Saturday, there's no other way to put it. Sure, the field was muddy, it was early, and we were missing players; but it doesn't matter, the other team had to deal with the same things that we did. It should stick in our memories, because we can never let ourselves get into that situation again. Still, we need to move past it and onto the next game. Our confidence needs to overcome our fear. Our passion needs to be at an all time high. Warrior pride needs to take over, and it will. At the end of the day, the scoreboard won't really matter. As long as we leave it all out on the field every single game, we can finish out the tournament knowing that we've done our best. Our next opponents better be ready, because rain or shine, 9:30 AM or 2:00 PM, 5 players missing or 0 players missing, we're going to give it our all. No regrets.

William Schmetterer

9-4-2014

We, Deerfield Warriors, are coming into the Pepsico Showdown with the determination to make our mark. After two unsuccessful seasons, we've taken on a new team of capable players and a new role with high expectations and standards. Being the smallest school in our league, and perhaps one of the smaller schools heading into the Pepsico Showdown, we are going to prove to others out on the field of what it means to be a true warrior. We are the underdogs – there is no denying it. People think of Deerfield and consider it an “easy win.” But we will rise to the occasion. With our heads up high, we're going to accept the pressure of our high standards and embrace it. To all the other teams out there... keep an eye out for the big and bold red. We're making our mark this year and nobody will see it coming. This is our year to show the true meaning of unity, passion, and community. It's a whole new chapter for the Deerfield Warriors, and we're more ready than ever to give it our all on the field.

## **Downers Grove North**

Jacob Stevenson

9-17-2014

We played Wheaton Academy in our first game on Saturday to begin the tournament. Unfortunately we had a game the day before so the team as a whole wasn't 100% fit but we were ready to compete. Going into the game I knew that it was going to be tough. We lost one of our better players the game before to a season long injury which really affected our midfield chemistry. The first half was really tight with hard play from both sides and when the whistle blew for halftime it was 0-0. Wheaton's striker was very talented but was controlled by our defense in the first half. The second half was just as physical as the first but unfortunately our offense couldn't get going, but theirs did. We ended up losing 3-0, but in my opinion the score didn't show the hard work put in by us. Even though we lost game one, the effort put forth by us was tremendous and I hope it can carry over to our next game Tuesday.

Jacob Stevenson

9-10-2014

The 2014 Pepsi Showdown will be my third time playing in it, and I can't be more excited. Being able to play in front of big crowds of players, coaches, and fans is a great atmosphere, which makes the games more exciting than usual. Last year we did not have a good showing at the tournament but this year we have a lot of positives going in. We have a new coaching staff and much more experienced players. The upperclassmen have a lot of leadership and have a sense of pride on the field and off. Also, we have a few underclassmen that can make positive impacts for us every game. Overall, even though the season has just barely begun, there is already a brotherly bond between all of us on the team and we hope that we can do positive things on the field this year. I would recommend watching out for DGN this year...we might surprise you.

## **Glenbrook North**

Josh Hakimian

9-10-2014

This year's team is full of high expectations. For many of us, this is our last year playing in green and gold. The Pepsico Showdown has always been a very important tournament for this team. Marking the halfway point of the season, this tournament allows for teams to find their fit and really start making a run before the state tournament rolls around. Going into to this year's tournament, we Spartans look like a completely revitalized team. Sharp cuts along with endurance have been a main focus in the fitness of our team over the offseason. In addition we have implemented many new styles and themes to our tactical play; one of them is to work as hard as possible to regain possession of the ball within the first five seconds of turning it over. As a result of the offseason training and conditionings, along with great senior leadership, we Spartans hope to be a threat in this year's competitions.

## **Lake Zurich**

Kyle Brandt

9-12-2014

We, the Lake High School Varsity Soccer Team, are proud to be a part of this tournament once again. It will be exciting for us to see new competition that we normally do not have the chance to compete against. The Opening Day hype is something we all look forward to being apart of. Having a team composed of new talent, along with numerous veterans, we can promise a great match to any team we encounter. Best of luck to all teams!

## **Lane Tech**

Sebastian Guerra

9-12-2014

Returning as PepsiCo Showdown defending champions, we're focused on wining five games to repeat. The road will be filled fierce competition but we are training hard and building a better team. Playing in the biggest high school tournament in the country is an unforgettable experience that we don't take for granted. We'll be in the moment, on the pitch, united.

## **Leyden**

Gabriel Perez

9-14-2014

Overall, day one of the PepsiCo Showdown was a complete success all around. We woke up bright and early excited, but focused on the task we had at hand. We were aware our opponent, Metea Valley, was sailing pretty smoothly up until then, so we knew we would have to play our best soccer in order to win. We came out aggressively, scored early, and put into play everything we went over in practice and executed it to success, which led to us upsetting the Mustangs 4-0. We ended the day right by hanging out as a team and enjoying the fun atmosphere of the event. Round 2 here we come.

Gabriel Perez

9-4-2014

We're about a week away from the PepsiCo Showdown, and hopes couldn't be any higher for our team than they are right now. We've just come out as champions of our own tournament, and while we enjoyed the win Saturday, we know that we've got to keep working hard day in and day out. Every drill, every sprint, every pass, and every shot taken on the practice field is with the Showdown in mind. We push ourselves to our limit everyday because we know that someone or some team out there might be working a little harder and a little faster than us because they want to be in that championship game, and with our division and our schedule in mind, we know that we're going to have to earn every single win, and the only way to do that is through the little things at practice. Not only is our team putting the work in, but our confidence is sky high now thanks to our school and our fans who proved to us that we have their full support by winning the "PepsiCo Showdown Battle of The Fans" challenge on Facebook. Leyden is ready.

## Lyons

Cam Dowling

9-17-2014

We played Wheaton Warrenville South yesterday on a beautiful, sunny day, and the Lions came out on top with a score of 2-0. Since we hosted a ton of games on Saturday, the field wasn't in the best of condition, to say the least. Nothing is perfect, though, and we played a solid game notching a pair of goals by the heads of Timmy Nolan and Cole Gilchrist.

We did start slower than we would have liked, and it took a while to break down their defense. That's when Timmy came around the backside on a set piece and knocked it home. Great ball by Harry.

We knew it was a big game and we came out, battled...and took it. Of course our loyal fans, The Hooligans, were there to support us with their loud cheering and fun chants, which is a great thing to have on our side. It really energizes us when our fans start to get into the game, and it's definitely a home field advantage when your classmates are cheering you on.

Now the only thing on our minds is the next game at hand, and we have to be ready to play great because its the biggest game of the season so far. Which means I could not be any more excited!

We're at home again and expect to have our awesome fans...and we'll be ready to play!

Lets bring out our blue and show our spirit!!

Cam Dowling

9-20-2014

Winner Takes All...

The clock could not have taken longer for it to hit zero...and Lyons was holding a slim 1-0 lead over New Trier. Then, at long last, it finally happened and it was a wonderful feeling. The fans rushed the field, giving us much earned congratulations and hugs and very relieving chants. LT is on its way toward the goal we had from the very beginning of the Tournament...win Pepsi.

We're not there yet, but we're pretty damn close. Just one more game - which happens to be ANOTHER biggest game of the year...against, as coach Labatto put's it...none other than our "bitter rivals".

Yep...we play Morton, and they are no push over. They are one of the best teams in state, year after year. It's the only thing on our mind right now, and we are ready. Unfortunately, we don't get to play in Toyota Park because they are sodding the field. To me, that's a bummer because Toyota is beautiful, and when I saw LT play in it two years ago, I made it my personal goal to set foot onto that field as part of the team. Well, things happen and instead, we're playing at DePaul (which is a great field too), so I can't complain.

It was a great game today and I can't wait to play Morton next Sunday in the Pepsi Showdown Championship game. Winner takes all!!!

Congratulations to Cole and Patrick...great combination and great reward for all the battling up front!

Cam Dowling

9-14-2014

This is my first year experiencing the Pepsi Showdown Tournament and it's perfectly fitting that we came out hungry and won our first game against Minooka by a score of 6-0. It was an exciting game and it is easy to tell that we have the best fans in the state. It was unbelievable how much support they give us, and it's definitely something that I will remember a hundred times over. A remarkable feeling that I can only describe as...pretty sweet.

We cannot sit back and relax...ever. This is a game that can change in an instant. One odd bounce and one bad call, the tide can change. We prevent that from happening by continuing to press, consistent passing and great defensive play...setting us up in the midfield, and allowing us to distribute the ball to the forwards. We did that today.

Looking forward to the next game!

## **Maine West**

Daniel Silva, Jr. and Alex Landowski

9-14-2014

It was an honor for our team to be in a tournament as big and competitive as the PepsiCo Showdown. Not everyone gets to be in a tournament where there are many college coaches attending and watching our every move. Yesterday's game was a good experience for a lot of the guys on the team. We were a bit nervous in the beginning, but once the game went on, we knew we were in our natural habitat. Even though we couldn't get the result we wished for, we felt like we all played an amazing game. Wheaton North is a good team. They were fast and strong and they used their height to their advantage. Once we settled in, we felt like we played a tremendous game. We will use this experience to help us make an impact in the rest of the season.

Daniel Silva, Jr. and Alex Landowski

9-10-2014

We are very excited to be part of our first PepsiCo Showdown. Our first match is against a very tough Wheaton North team. Our team is balanced with juniors and seniors. We are lead by senior midfielder Daniel Silva, Jr. and senior inside backs Edgar Felix and Jesus Rivera. Nick Pisani returns in the net. He earned eight shutouts last season in goal. Christian Ayala is a very talented senior midfielder, while Giuseppe Pulvino reminds us of the Energizer Bunny. As Opening Day nears, we continue to get ready during tough practices. We feel we have not yet met our true potential on the field. Once we do, we should be a fun team to watch.

## Metea Valley

Michael Adams

9-14-2014

This year's PepsiCo Showdown did not go as planned. We were eliminated first round by Leyden by a score of 4-0. We conceded early and from then on out, allowed it to get out of hand. The main reason we failed to compete in this game was because they were able to score their chances while we weren't. I myself had many chances that should have been scored, but weren't. Looking ahead after this tough loss, we know we still have a lot to work on for the remainder of the season. Scoring is still the number one thing we need to work on for future games because we are creating plenty of opportunities but not taking them. Looking ahead to the rest of the season we hope to rebound quickly from the loss to Leyden and get back to keeping shutouts and winning games.

Michael Adams

9-10-2014

This will be my third year participating in the Pepsi Showdown for Metea Valley. In the past we have always done well in this tournament and we are looking to continue on that tradition in this year's tournament. The group of guys we have in the team is strong and full of hard workers. A theme of this season has been to work hard for one another and to battle through a tough game. The guys have been continually doing well in practices and we will look to keep our streak of shutouts going into the tournament. With this attitude, I believe Metea Valley will look to once again make its mark in the PepsiCo Showdown tournament. Go Go Mustangs!

## New Trier

Jamey Minturn, Midfielder, Senior, #8

9-22-2014

Walking into the Lyons Soccer Complex, the team realized that this was essentially a home game for LT, right in their backyard. Lots of opposing fans showed up, drums were banging, and energy levels were way up. We were excited about playing in a match with real meaning and had our sights set on advancing to the final. Our game plan was to be very direct in the first 10 minutes, which we executed pretty well. Even before the game, we recognized that both Lyons and New Trier were good teams playing on a huge stage and that the match would likely end with a 2-1 or 1-0 score line. It was going to come down to whoever could finish their chances, as it was a defensive battle for most of the game. Right before halftime, our goalie JJ Jaggard made a couple of tremendous saves in a messy scrum inside the box. We entered the break with the score 0-0. It was definitely an emotional game filled with intensity, and the weather only increased the drama, as it rained off and on throughout. The game itself was tight for all 80 minutes, and possession was pretty much equal all the way through. We had a few nice chances in both halves, but just couldn't

seem to find the back of the net. Lyons was able to score the lone goal of the game with 15 minutes to go, and we could not get the equalizer. Hats off to Lyons for a hard fought game and we wish them the best of luck against Morton next Sunday. As for us, we really enjoyed our run in PepsiCo Showdown and we gained some great experience against some really good competition. As we move forward, we now transition our focus to conference and eventually the State Tournament..

Tim Moriarty, Defender, Senior, #7

9-20-2014

Without a doubt, the quarterfinal match against defending champions Lane Tech was our toughest test of the PepsiCo Showdown so far. Behind a great fan turnout, we managed to hold them to a shutout on our home pitch. I mentioned this in my first blog, but our last encounter with Lane Tech was in the 2013 IHSA Regional Final, which we won 4-2. Lane Tech is a very balanced team, they look to play quickly on the counter, and we have a lot of respect for what they do. Over the last couple of years, it's actually turned into a nice rivalry. But back to the events of last night! Somewhat late into the first half, we found the back of the net after a nice run of play in which we stayed composed and completed several passes before scoring. Tomorrow we match up against the #3 seed Lyons Township. Unfortunately we didn't get the chance to play them in our own tournament earlier this season, but now we are looking forward to doing so. Like last Saturday, we will be playing on a grass pitch at the Lyons Soccer Complex and we hope to get a few fans to the match. The PepsiCo Showdown is about playing great teams on a big stage, and tomorrow is exactly that!

Steven Childs, Midfielder, Senior, #10

9-17-2014

Tonight we played Wheaton North at home in the PepsiCo Showdown's Round of 16. Our pre-game ritual saw a bit of added flair as the team dressed up in professional sports jerseys during the warm-up for New Trier's Homecoming Promo Video. We got the laughs out of the way before kickoff and, once the whistle blew, locked into the game. We didn't know a lot about this team beforehand and to be honest we started a little flat. Our offense created early chances but we failed to capitalize on several key opportunities. Unfortunately, Wheaton North came back with a quick counter to go up 1-0 late in the first half. During the break, the team sat down and talked tactics but we knew it ultimately came down to playing with heart on the field. The boys and I got into the huddle and got each other pumped up for the next half. We came out fast and were able to generate twice as many chances as the first half. Our first goal came from a penalty drawn by senior forward Duncan Gill, which I finished. The second came shortly afterwards from a 30-yard screamer into the upper corner by Jamey Minturn. The third came very late in the game when Spencer Farina dug out a loose ball in the box and Duncan finished to cap things off. Although we are excited to move into the next round, the team knows that we can't afford another slow start. We plan on working twice as hard in training to get ready for our Elite Eight matchup against Lane Tech! It should be a great match!

Jamey Minturn, Midfielder, Senior, #8

9-14-2014

Coming off two rather frustrating games last week—two draws at home against CSL crossover opponents—the boys, myself included, had a great opportunity to regroup Friday night at the Varsity Football Game as we raised money for cancer research by selling t-shirts and car magnets for our program's "Kick Cancer" campaign. The next morning, walking into the PepsiCo Showdown was a nice change of pace. The atmosphere was full of excitement. Energy was high. All week we trained on grass in preparation for the game, so we felt ready for the game conditions on Saturday morning. More importantly, our focus remained on just playing our game, which is what we, New Trier, do best. Our

opponent, Solorio Academy, was a team we knew very little about. As the referee blew the whistle to start the match, we did our best to dictate the tempo right away. We scored a nice goal in the run of play within the first 10 minutes, and found the net once more before the break. Leading 2-0 at halftime, we knew we had to stay focused and see the game out. The second half was a physical one. After Solorio scored on a penalty kick midway into the second half, we knew we had to regain composure and control the game once more. After coming close several times, we scored a final goal with under a minute left to win 3-1. We will continue to build on this momentum and look forward to hosting Wheaton North on Tuesday and hopefully continuing our march to the Final!

Tim Moriarty, Defender, Senior, #7

9-4-2014

It's great to be back in the PepsiCo Showcase tournament after not participating the last several years! The boys are excited and ready to take on other talented teams. After beating the 2013 PepsiCo Showcase Champions Lane Tech last year in the IHSA Regional Final on our home turf, our team is prepared to face teams just as talented as year's Lane squad. The team's 16 seniors (including me) are stepping up our game in our last season of high school soccer, and the younger guys are pushing us and preparing to lead the team in future years. Most of the guys have been playing together since middle school, so team chemistry is a non-issue. After watching the New Trier Girls Soccer team win the PepsiCo Showdown this spring, we want to match their accomplishment this fall. Our drive to succeed cannot be matched, as shown by the great start of our season. As a team we will continue to train hard, sharpen our skills, and pursue our goal of winning this tournament. We are looking forward to the release of the fixture list to prepare for our opening day matchup!

## **Oak Park River Forest**

Harrison Engoren

9-17-2014

After a disappointing loss in the first round, we were able to bounce back with an important overtime win. We've been working hard in practice to improve on our possession, and I think it showed in our match tonight (Tuesday). We did a good job finding the space on the field; we just need to find the final ball. Recently, we brought up a promising young player (Andrew Barky) and we're excited to see him give us some energy and a couple goals up top. I think this win will give us a much needed confidence boost and hopefully we can start taking more chances in an effort to create more chances. Tomorrow we will go back to practice with a focus on working on our attack and our creativity and execution in the final third of the pitch. Now, we look to produce a favorable result against East Aurora in our third game of The Showdown.

Harrison Engoren

8-31-2014

Personally, this is my third year competing in the PepsiCo Showdown and I know I speak for the whole team when I say we are excited to be a part of the tournament. We struggled in our first game this year, but we've been working hard in practice to polish up our skills and we know were in good hands under our elite coaching staff, especially former goalkeeper Rob Fox (who led his OPRF team to the state tournament in the fall of '95). As a senior heavy team, most of us have played in the OPRF program for four years now and it has helped us not only develop our soccer skills, but also grow into an inseparable band of brothers. With the addition of some promising young talent to this year's team, we're confident that our camaraderie and love for each other and beautiful game of soccer can produce fruitful results for us this year. We'd like to come in to tournament and win our first game so we can build up momentum and hopefully make

a run for the cup. Regardless of our results, we love the competitive atmosphere that the PepsiCo Showdown imbues and the opportunity it gives us to compete against a diverse range of teams that our schedule normally wouldn't allow for us to play. Get ready for the Huskies. Woooooof!

## Oswego

Blake Kearby

9-15-2014

Although we lost to Libertyville, Oswego fought hard during the game. We came out strong and scored the first goal but fell apart throughout the game. Oswego is looking forward to playing Lockport tomorrow and ready to play. We will come out like we did against Libertyville and continue to play at level the whole game.

Blake Kearby

9-4-2014

Oswego High School is excited to be in the Pepsi Showdown once again. Our school has been playing in the tournament since it first started. We always have great competition when we go to the tournament and are able to face teams we don't normally play in our conference. Not only is the competition better, but the fields at Lyons are fantastic to play on. Our team can't wait for the Pepsi Showdown to begin and to take the field to play our first game of the tournament.

## Plainfield East

Derry Fan

9-13-2014

Here at Plainfield East we are extremely excited to participate in the Pepsi Showdown. Being one of the smallest, if not the smallest school in the tournament we are underdogs. However we feel as if this is a great experience and great exposure for our school and all of our players. We are very excited to compete with the high caliber teams here.

## Streamwood

Michael Delaney

9-10-2014

The PepsiCo Showdown is the biggest high school soccer tournament in the country and we are excited to be able to participate in it once again. We are going into the showdown with our heads up, spirits high, and our game faces on. We're on a mission to bring that trophy to Streamwood High School. GO SABRES!!!

## Washington

Miguel A. Rodriguez

9-12-2014

Talking on behalf of the George Washington High School Soccer family, I am proud to say that it is an honor to participate again for the fourth consecutive year in the Pepsi Showcase. We are bringing a well-diverse team that is ready to compete against other talented programs. Although, due to the fact of ACT testing and a number of prior family commitments, over half of our starting line up won't be able to play the game opener. But this opens an opportunity for our younger guys to step up to the challenge and continue to make our community proud regardless of our resources.

Last year's accomplishments are well behind us. We have had great experiences with state and city and this year we want to showcase our magic at Pepsi as we continue to build on our success.

## **Wheaton Academy**

Hunter Finnegan & TJ Tyrrell

9-14-2014

The Pepsi has an incredible environment with free muscle milk and the Athletico combine. This combined with college coaches and the chance to play at Toyota Park brings out the competitive nature in every one and every game is a battle. Last year the Pepsi showdown was a turning point for our season. We won an overtime game and went on to the semifinals. The tournament created a lot of adversity for our team and that's something that we love as a program. It brought us together as a team and put us in situations that prepared us for playoffs. We are privileged to have the opportunity to compete in this showdown again and can't wait to continue on with this year's tournament.

## **Wheaton Warrenville South**

Elliot Kettle

9-21-2014

Looking back on what is always one of the most exciting times of year, the Pepsi Showdown was a roller coaster ride from start to finish. After a great start in beating Washington 3-2, WWS fell to both Lions Township and Streamwood, 2-0 and 3-1. Although painful, I think we looked at these games as motivation to ultimately improve in the next contest. We carried that mindset into our final game on the 20th. We played Larkin, who we definitely felt we could get a result against and in the end that mindset held true. Off of Junior Danny Jimenez's two goals we were able to hold on to a 2-1 victory, an excellent way to end the tournament. Overall I just wanted to thank the Pepsi Showdown for allowing Wheaton Warrenville South to participate in what is one of the best high school tournaments in the nation! Go WWSHS!

Elliot Kettle

9-14-2014

When it comes to the Pepsi Showdown, you never quite know what you will get, however that is part of the excitement! Typically the first round matchup is a team you almost never see on your regular season schedule, and that was the case for in our first contest against Washington (2A state champions in 2013). Approaching the match I think we were expecting a tough opponent, but were ready for the challenge. Throughout the game we played excellent, ending up getting the win 3-2. After an own goal by Washington, a Junior, Anthony Berardi, found the back of the net twice. Although we were excited about the win, we knew Lyons Township will be a good match for us on Thursday. I think we are looking to get a result in that match and advance to the next round of play! Go WWSHS!

Elliot Kettle

9-4-2014

An always exciting time of year for high school soccer in Illinois, this year's Pepsi Showdown is sure to be an entertaining one. Between the crowds, college coaches, and music blasting it makes for one heck of an atmosphere, something that is really unforgettable! However, and I believe I speak for the whole Wheaton Warrenville South soccer team and maybe every team in the tournament, once that whistle blows it is game on. Thus being one of the best aspects of Pepsi. Hopefully this year's Showdown can be a successful one for the Tiger's. I think we are prepared for the first game and hopeful that we that we can get a result. Go WWSHS Soccer!!

## Whitney Young

Gio Padilla

9-14-2014

The first weekend of Pepsi Showdown is always tough for Whitney Young. In my 3 years playing the tournament we have been the underdog going into the match and this weekend was no different. We were matched with a tough St. Charles North team that was the 6th seed of the tournament. We had a late game so we were able to look at all of the other results going into our match, the thing we noticed was how most lower seeds were being blown out. Unlike the other lower seeds we did not back down, and although we did not come away with the win a 1-0 loss is nothing to be ashamed of. Fighting through that game with my team was great and even though it ended in a loss I am proud to have made St. Charles work for their win, I am proud of the fact that we did not back down when the odds were stacked against us. I love Whitney Young and I wish we had won the game but we will learn from this game and use it as a catapult for future success.

Gio Padilla

9-4-2014

Pepsi Showdown is a huge tournament that always comes around with a lot of excitement. This is my 3rd year participating in the Pepsi Showdown and every year has been amazing from the free muscle milk, to competing against the top teams in the state, Pepsi Showdown is always a great time. This year the team has a lot of experienced players and more talent than we've had any years in recent memory. As a team we share a bond that we haven't in years past and everyone gets along. I strongly believe that every person on this team fights for one another and never gives up. We are looking to advance further than the Whitney Young teams of the past and as always win as many games as we can. There's excitement surrounding everything at Whitney Young at the moment and everyone wants to prove that we are a team to look out for and that we can win and win big.