

## **DAYSRING SECOND IN DIVISION I NATIONAL TOURNAMENT**

After going undefeated in VACA conference play for the second year in a row and posting a 17-0 record in conference play this season, Dayspring Christian Academy varsity soccer team won the State VACA Conference Championship and recently concluded its season by coming in second in the 16-team invitational National Association of Christian Athletes championship held in Dayton, TN. Playing under a points system, this marked the first time a DCA team had earned the right to vie in the Division I competition against teams from larger schools in Ohio, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. Dayspring finally lost in the championship game at the end of the four-day tournament. Named to the all-tournament were Daniel Dodge, Stephen Copeland, David Cousins, and Morgan Paulette. Paulette was voted Best Defensive Player of the Tournament.

Winning the state championship for the second year in a row, Dayspring defeated four other teams in the playoffs in late October. Dayspring dominated its four regional and state opponents by a combined 19-4 score.

This year's team was built around an outstanding and relentless defense and an aggressive offensive passing attack. The average final score of DCA's matches throughout the season was 6-1 with many goals coming once substitutions began. As a rule, DCA scored early and often in most regular season and tournament games, giving abundant opportunities for the talented reserve squad to log significant playing time.

Caleb Hairfield, tournament MVP and senior mid-fielder, led the way in the state VACA tournament scoring three times in the final game. Morgan Paulette, senior sweeper, was named MVP of the semi-final round insuring wins in regional championship matches with numerous key defensive plays. Accompanying Hairfield and Paulette on the all-tournament teams were senior defenseman Daniel Dodge, senior forward Mark McGill, junior midfielder David Cousins, and sophomore goalkeeper Dillion Mayhew. Dodge, McGill, Hairfield, and Paulette were also named to the all-conference squad for their play during the regular season.

Strong play throughout the season was displayed by the remainder of the starting eleven: juniors Russell Kroeger, Daniel Henderson, and Stephen Copeland, sophomore Chris Reighard, and sophomore Caleb Bryant. The roster was completed by the following team members: Andrew Hill, McKeever Henley, Luke Woodward, Zack Brown, Samuel Copeland, David Henderson, Zack Cousins, Jack McDonald, Eli Hairfield, Michael Ribbens, and Daniel Armstrong.

Coaches for the DCA team are head coach Tommy Cousins and assistant Brian Eisenback. The team ended its season last week at the National Association of Christian Athletes tournament in Dayton, TN. Dayspring won its divisional championship (Division III) at this tournament in both 2003 and 2006. This year they played in the Division I Championship game and came in second.

