



## **Syracuse Development Academy's Utica Club Selected to National League**

The Syracuse Development Academy (SDA East) Utica Blasters 04 girls premier club soccer team has been selected to participate in the 2018/19 U.S. Youth Soccer National League. The National League is the top league in the US for youth soccer. The League provides an avenue for top tier youth premier soccer teams to play against top competition from across the country for continued development.

The SDA Utica 04 Blasters are no strangers to success and selection into the U.S. Youth Soccer National League is another first for any youth soccer team from the Mohawk Valley. The team is coached by Wayne Williams of Whitesboro and is comprised of the most talented group of girls from multiple school districts in the greater Utica area and the Valley born in the year 2004. This season's roster includes: Olivia Lindsay (Little Falls), Mary Muller (Westmoreland), Alison Falvo (New Hartford), Alyssa Shepherd and Mackenzie Gaffney (Sauquoit), Gabriella Hughes, Katie Sherline, Madison Wisheart, Parker Lahey, Peyton Steates and Tara Williams (Whitesboro), Graci Dreimiller, Maddie Luke, Paige Luke, Riley Jones, Miranda McCormick (Rome), Ella Hutchins (Waterville), and Jada Lee, Peyton Cole (Lowville). This Blasters group is the third generation of its namesake, all lead by Coach Williams and has had some very large shoes to fill. Their two predecessors – the RSSC Blasters and the SDA East 00/01 Blasters – set the bar extremely high for the 04 girls by competing with and beating some of the top youth soccer programs in the United States. The 04 Blasters have not only risen to the challenge and continued the tradition of success, they have surpassed their "big sister alumni." Because the team is comprised of high school freshman and 8th graders, they still have plenty of time to add to their already very impressive resume and unprecedented list of accomplishments which includes:

- First team from the Mohawk Valley to win back-to-back Eastern New York State Cup Championships - 2016 & 2017;
- First team from the Mohawk Valley to win Eastern New York 11 v 11 State Cup – 2017;
- 2018 Eastern New York State Cup Semi-Finalist – 2018;
- First team from the Mohawk Valley to crack the top 100 National Team Rankings list – 2018;
- First team from the Mohawk Valley to qualify and participate in US Youth Soccer 's Eastern Region 1 League (ERL) in the Elite Division (Top Division) - 2017 & 2018; and
- First team from the Mohawk Valley to ever to qualify for US Youth Soccer National League - 2018-19 Season.

“In addition to high exposure for college recruiting opportunities, National League teams compete for the National League title for their gender age groups and four slots in each gender age group of the annual US Youth Soccer National Championships Finals, the oldest and most prestigious youth soccer national championships. Teams that earn spots in the National League have a proven track record of success in US Youth Soccer regional and national competitions and are among the nation's best. Hundreds of college scouts attend each National League weekend, creating another significant opportunity for the nation's collegiate and National Team coaches to see National League players in an environment of meaningful play, citing the competitive level of each game as every team has to earn their spot in the competition, regardless of club affiliation or location." <https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/national-league-about/>

For more information on SDA Utica, contact [sdautica@gmail.com](mailto:sdautica@gmail.com) or [www.sdautica.com](http://www.sdautica.com) you can also follow us on twitter @ [twitter.com/sdautica](https://twitter.com/sdautica)

