

## U14 Boys Maroon are Champs!

For the Fusion U14 Boys Maroon, the final outcome of the 2016 season hinged on a long trek to the central valley.

Needing a win or tie to secure first place in their division, the team hit the road to take on Fresno Alliance.

Leading up to that game, the boys had endured a season-long gauntlet of extremely hard-fought matches, all decided by two goals or fewer. The team braced for another dogfight.



**Fusion's Landon Ratinho (#17) scores on a header against Fresno.**

Instead, the team delivered one of its best games of the season, crushing the Alliance by a score of 8-0. Landon Ratinho and Edwin Zabala scored two goals apiece, while Mikey Christian, Aleksandr Cortes, Giovany Fuentes, and Eric "Pickles" Perez each scored one. Patrick Curulla, Hunter Houghton, and Parker Moore created numerous scoring opportunities with expert passing. Eduardo Angeles, Ryan Hoopes, and Abe Zarate led the defensive effort. Thomas Bosso was extremely active, as he defended, facilitated, and supported his teammates wherever he was needed.



**Two headers are better than one! Edwin Zabala scores one here.**



By winning the game, the team earned two tremendous honors: A division championship and a promotion from NPL2 to NPL1 next season!

"The team's success is a byproduct of hard work, dedication, and discipline," says Head Coach Craig Scheer. "The boys took game preparation very seriously and executed our game plans beautifully. They proved that they belonged and that they deserved to win. It's a great group of boys who have really come together and have each other's backs. It's very satisfying to see the hard work pay off."



**With victory against Fresno Alliance assured, U14 Boys Maroon Head Coach Craig Scheer gave starting goalie Mikey Christian (second from right) a chance to play the field. Mikey came through with a goal, igniting a team celebration that exemplified the tremendous camaraderie which helped propel the team to a division championship and a promotion to NPL1.**