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University School Football Celebrates National Championship



By Christy Cabrera Chirinos, Sun Sentinel
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For the University School football team, the season began with a nationally-televised win over Ohio's Trotwood Madison.

It ended last month at Orlando's Citrus Bowl, where the US Suns made school history by winning their first state title after a 24-17 come-from-behind victory over Madison County in the Class 3A championship game.

Monday, the US Suns players donned their jerseys one more time and had the opportunity to celebrate again when they were presented with MaxPreps' Minuteman Trophy after finishing the season as the website's small-schools national champion.

They were also ranked No. 24 in the site's overall rankings.

"This has been such an incredible experience," said University School quarterback Mike White. "Our fans are here and they've been there all year for us. They made the trip to Orlando for states and they've been awesome. I'm getting goose bumps thinking about [the national championship.] There was so much hard work that went into it."

For many of the University School seniors, that championship effort began back in 2010. That's when the US Suns made their first appearance in the title game and were left heartbroken after a 56-55 triple overtime loss to Ocala Trinity Catholic. While they were eliminated in the 2011 playoffs by eventual state champion American Heritage-Delray, University School stormed through this past season, outscoring opponents 494-107.

The US Suns biggest performance came in December when they capped a 12-0 season by rallying from a 17-point deficit in the championship game.

"When I saw that [we were small school national champions], it was gratifying," said University School coach Roger Harriott. "Our kids were extremely excited about the recognition. It says a lot about the character of our organization. [University School](#) and [Nova Southeastern University](#) give us ample opportunity to promote kids and show their talent on and more importantly, off the field. We're very proud of the recognition we've received."