

2026 National Donauschwaben Soccer Tournament

Olmstead Township, OH, USA – On Friday evening, the fields were pristinely manicured and ready for the highest level of amateur soccer. Refreshments and greetings were around as friends gathered and caught up for a fun weekend ahead.

These field conditions were not meant to be, however, as heavy overnight and morning rain saturated the fields. Representatives from **Akron GFS**, **Mansfield Liederkrantz**, **Chicago Green-White**, **Detroit Carpathia** and **St. Louis Grun-Weiss** were on hand for the 51st US National Tournament. The Clubs across all three divisions put on a display of high-level soccer that has come to be the norm for our historic Tournament. On more than one occasion spectators could be heard asking for video replay of a highlight reel goal while enjoying a break for a paprika wurst and cold beer under the pavilion. Evening torrential downpours kept the groundskeepers hard at work for their guests.

After Saturday, the Women's Division was complete and the **Akron GFS Women** were presented with their Championship Trophy! Congrats Akron! A wonderful schnitzel dinner was enjoyed. Not to forget tradition, the evening was capped off with a sing-along and a couple zeppl polkas, accompanied by the returning Accordion duo, Aaron and Nate. Thanks for playing, fellas!

Sunday morning meant more preparations and maintenance for the Cleveland grounds crew. These guys were the saviors of the tournament. Their lead-up work and their efforts on Sunday morning gave us the only chance for a successful weekend on the field. At the annual coaches and managers meeting, **had their traditional 9am meeting After some** housekeeping and some friendly soccer discussion about current and future of our clubs and beloved Tournament. Our meeting was then adjourned with a toast to a great day of Donauschwaben Fussball!

Sunday commenced promptly at 10am as most games were moved to the front "drier" field. With a place in the final match up for grabs, or the chance to play "spoiler" the stakes were high. It was that or simple old-fashioned pride of the game and this historic tournament.

Cleveland Concordia topped Detroit Carpathia in the Over 35 Division Final! Carpathia was thrilled to qualify for the final but would not be enough to overcome the hosts. And now for the highlight match of the weekend, the Championship of the Open Major Division. Akron GFS in their green jerseys would meet defending champions Detroit Carpathia in what were yellow jerseys at the start of the day. Both teams shared chances, but the score remained tied at 0-0 after regulation time. They traded goals in the last few frantic minutes of overtime but ultimately Detroit Carpathia was victorious after kicks from the mark!

Celebrations moved into the clubhouse while a goulash dinner was enjoyed by all. Joined by the namesakes of the traveling trophies, Erich Haller presented Cleveland Concordia with their Erich Haller Over 35 Championship trophy and Mike Talan, Ehrensportleiter presented Detroit Carpathia with their repeat Championship **Mike Talan Wanderpokal!**

It is an honor to work with these historic and incredible Clubs. There are not enough words to describe the friendship and pride that surrounds this group and our beautiful game. This tournament does not continue without the dedication of the players, families, coaches and staff of these fine Clubs. The support from the Stiftung is recognized and very much appreciated. A special thank you to Cleveland Concordia and the DGACC and their team. They were fantastic hosts and I thoroughly enjoyed working directly with Brookes Swisher and Pete Klepek. I am proud to say we had a successful weekend and look forward to 2027 at the Mansfield Liederkrantz!

Respectfully submitted,
Werner Fricker III
Landessportleiter

2026 National Donauschwaben Soccer Tournament



2026 National Donauschwaben Soccer Tournament



PHOTO KEY:

Page 2 Top Left: Akron GFS Eagles, Women's Division Champions

Page 2 Top Right: SCD Cleveland Concordia, Over 35 Erich Haller Cup Champions, Staff and Coaches

Page 2 Middle: Akron GFS, Major Division Finalists

Page 2 Bottom: Detroit Carpathia Major Division Champions

Page 3 Top: SCD Cleveland Concordia, Over 35 Erich Haller Cup Champions

Page 3 Bottom: Detroit Carpathia Major Division Champions, Mike Talan Wanderpokal