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MARION - Spending the last week in Myrtle Beach with friends as part of a last senior trip, recent Pleasant grad Logan Thompson was still trying to comprehend what he experienced the week prior.

"Right now it still hasn't set in yet. It still feels unreal. I don't even know how to describe the feeling," he said.

Thompson is a national champion, earning it with his Ohio Premier Soccer Club teammates.

After going undefeated with two ties in Elite Clubs National League, the Dublin-based group comprised of central Ohio boys soccer talent earned a bid to the Elite National Premier League 19U National Championship in Lancaster, Massachusetts.

But the winning didn't stop.

"We knew every match was going to be important right off the bat since only one team would advance out of the group," Thompson said. "In order to win it all, we had to go and win every game. We couldn't take any games off."

Ohio Premier went unscathed in three pool play matches to take a spot in the semifinals, outscoring opponents 9-5 collectively. In the Final Four, they beat Manhattan SC Villa 1-0 to take its place in the championship match.

In the final game, New England-based NEFC took a quick 1-0 lead and it stood at halftime.

"We couldn't get anything going in the first half," he said.

That changed in a hurry and Thompson had a big part in it.

Ohio Premier tied it early in the second half, then Thompson followed with the go-ahead goal.

"Once it was 1-1 we definitely had the advantage and we were pressing hard," he said. "The ball got kicked into the middle to one of our center midfielders, and I saw a gap open up between the back line of the other team and I just went right through. The kid had a great ball to me, and I got a touch on it. The keeper hit it, but it was still bouncing, and I went ahead and put it on in."

Thompson is the all-time leading goal scorer in Marion County history with more than 100 in his high school career at Pleasant, but he never had a goal as significant as that one.

"It was unreal. It was the best goal. I don't think I'll ever be able to forget that goal," he said.

Ohio Premier added a late goal when NEFC was frantically trying to tie it up, winning the championship match 3-1.

"This is definitely the best team I've ever been a part of," Thompson said, adding that seven teammates will play NCAA Division I soccer and all but two will play it in college.

Thompson is enjoying his final days of summer before heading to Mount Vernon Nazarene where he will play soccer. Camp opens Aug. 8.

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