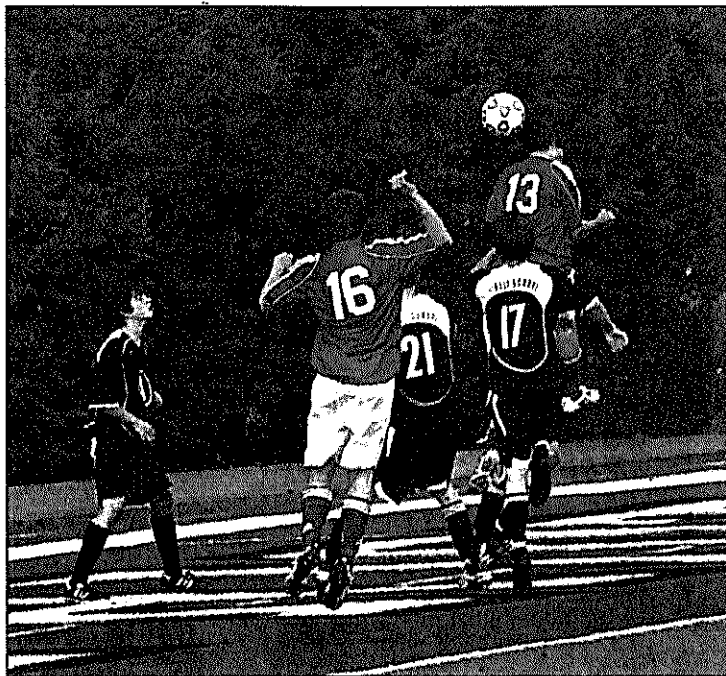


SCORE ONE FOR THE LITTLE GUYS

The improbable run by the Tampa Bay Rays will continue as they beat the Chicago White Sox to advance to the ALCS/19

The Intelligencer. SPORTS

OVAC Cup Championships



Photos by Mike Hughes

Top left: Linsly's Sam Pinion (3) dribbles around Wheeling Park's Zach Aderholt (11) and Matt Ceo (7), while the Cadets' Tyler Gambino (19) looks on. Top Right: The Patriots' Fernando Olea Comas (13) heads the ball in front of Linsly's Jeffery Kitchen (21) and Jamie Turak (17). Park's Josh Henderson follows the play. *View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.*

Park Gains First Title Since 1999

Julian earns crown that had eluded him

By **JOSH STROPE**
Staff Writer

The OVAC Cup championship has been a trophy that has eluded Wheeling Park coach Mario Julian in his eight-year tenure with the Patriots.

It's been the only thing missing in an otherwise stellar coaching career.

With what might be his best team to date, Julian can finally breathe easier.

Wheeling Park defeated Linsly 2-0 in the OVAC Cup Tournament Final on Monday at Wheeling Island Stadium, the Patriots' first title since 1999.

"This one feels really good," Julian said. "The team's worked so hard in the offseason

to get to this point. We keep calling it a journey because that's what it is. This was just a part of that journey. This is my first OVAC Cup and these guys let me celebrate it with them. They wanted me to be a part of it and I just want to thank my team for that. That was a special moment."

Zach Aderholt and Darryl Baynes provided the goals for the Patriots as they kept their perfect record intact.

"It feels really good," Aderholt said. "I have grown up with the rivalry of Wheeling Park and Linsly playing in the OVAC Finals and it was just a dream come true to win on this stage."

"It meant a lot and for Mario; this is a big monkey off his back. We always come up with talented teams and this year we were just fortunate enough to put it all together."

Wheeling Park (14-0-3) came out with all the fire and intensity one would expect in a title game.

The Patriots' passes were perfect, keeping the ball away from Linsly and its potent offense.

Wheeling Park netminder Dakota Cintron barely had to move in the first half because of Wheeling Park's dominance.

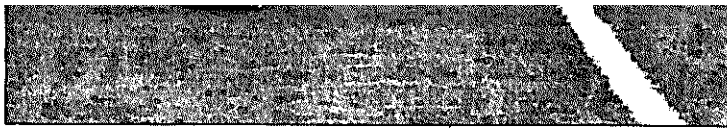
The Patriots finally broke the scoreless tie in the 32nd minute.

After a high kick penalty just outside the penalty box, the Patriots found themselves with an indirect kick.

Fernando Olea Comas tapped the ball forward, Matt Ceo stopped it, and Aderholt let it rip, getting around the Linsly wall and past Cadets goalie Neil Tennant.

"That was a play we have been working a lot on," Aderholt said. "I was just in the right spot at the right time and connected perfectly with it. I liked where the wall was set up. It gave me room to spin it outside of them."

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Photos by Mike Hughes

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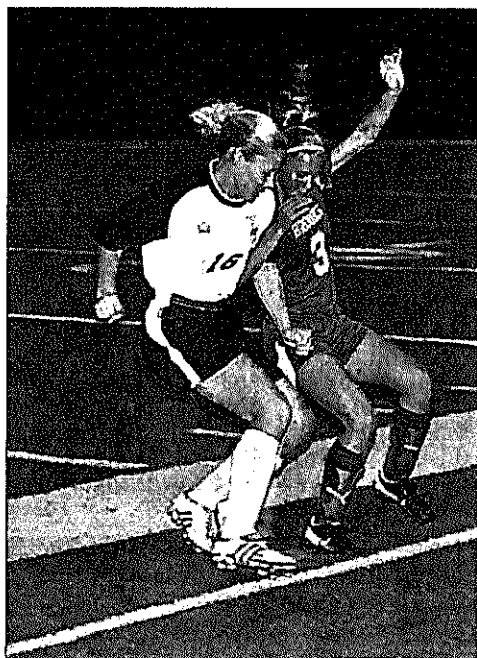


Photo by Mike Hughes

Steubenville Catholic's Cassy Stevens (16), left, battles for the ball with Brooke's Maci Hascek (3). *View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.*

Bruins Girls Secure Cup On Penalty Kicks

Brooke finds way to slow Looman, Steub. Catholic

By **JOSH STROPE**
Staff Writer

For the first time in OVAC Cup Finals history, the girls' game was the nightcap.

And the main event lived up to its billing.

Brooke and Steubenville Catholic went scoreless for 90 minutes before the Bruins broke through in penalty kicks to win their first OVAC Cup championship since 1996 — the only time a team other than Wheeling Park has been crowned OVAC champion.

"It's been a long time for somebody around here other than Wheeling Park to have the Cup and I'm glad it was us," Brooke coach Jerod Hall said. "These girls, the senior class, they've put in a lot of hard work. I'm really happy for the senior class, more than anything."

"Not too often is a 0-0 game exciting like that. Both teams played extremely hard and I think they put on a pretty good show for the first game under the lights."

The Bruins dominated the Crusaders in the first half and it looked as if Brooke was going to have too much for Steubenville Catholic, the first girls' team from Ohio to make it to the final.

But the Crusaders were the tournament's top seed and the team to finally end Wheeling Park's 11-year dominance. There was still plenty of fight left.

"Nerves. No question it was nerves," Steubenville Catholic coach Chris Ledyard said. "I've never seen our defense break down that fast. Then the mids were not coming back to the ball so when we went down at halftime, I told our mids to play their game and we are going to come back and dominate. If you don't, we're not going to dominate. Sure enough, they did."

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"I don't know how many opportunities they got at our net, but it wasn't many."

Mario Julian

Park

(Continued from Page 17)

Julian added: "That was a great shot. We have been working on that shot a lot. A little touch to the other guy, he stops it just enough to get it around the wall, and Zach hit it perfectly. It was a nice play."

Wheeling Park took all the momentum into halftime, but also knew the defending OVAC Cup champions weren't going to go down without a fight.

Linsly found its feet in the second half and spent plenty of time on the Wheeling Park side of the field. Still, the Patriots snuffed out the Cadets' threats.

"We have Zach Aderholt in the middle with Fernando and then some great defenders that can just possess the ball," Julian said. "They like to keep it away from the other team. I thought the ball movement was really good in the first half, and the second half we might have tried to play with it a little more with some kick and run, but we settled down and got the goal."

"Give Linsly credit, they put pressure on us. They got a lot of kicks and a lot of throw-ins near our 18 and we cleared everything away. I don't know how many opportunities they got at our net, but it wasn't many."

As time was ticking away, Linsly pushed harder and harder to get the tying score. With a sparse backfield, the Patriots took advantage.

Baynes and Josh Henderson found themselves with a 2-on-1 with a Linsly defender. Baynes used a give-and-go pass to Henderson who raced toward the net. As the Linsly defender caught up, Henderson passed it back to Baynes who finished easily for a 2-0 lead in the 77th minute.

"I felt our kids played outstanding and with tremendous heart," Linsly coach Eric Fries said. "Once again, we kept it close until the end and the one last goal was because we were overrunning everything and exposing everything to get that goal. When you expose yourself, you are going to give up one."

"Those guys played awesome. It's a good rivalry and it's fun to play every time we do it. They won the game with a great free kick and that's how you have to do it. The one goal that was, it was a good goal, it wasn't a cheap goal. We put one off the crossbar and our guys played awesome. To our seniors, my hats off. Alec Holloway, Eyuel Tesfagiorgis, and Jamie Turak. We have a just a few graduating. But (Monday), it was all about an outstanding win by Park and

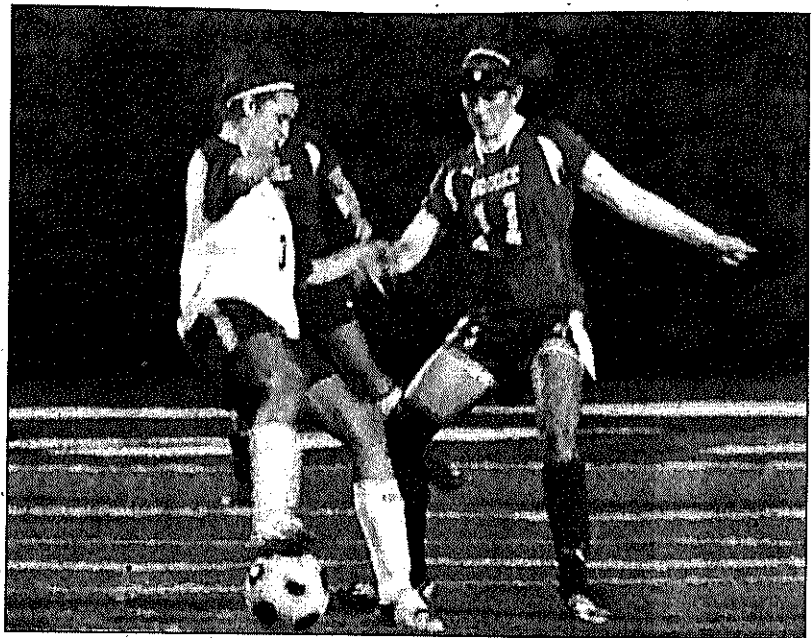


Photo by Mike Hughes

Steubenville Catholic's Roberta Teramana, left, battles with Brooke's Madison Schultz. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Girls

(Continued from Page 17)

"We also rotated four midfielders to the outside so that everyone was constantly fresh and that's why you saw that continued drive near their goal. They set each other up nice, but we couldn't finish. Everybody was thinking on both teams. I told Jerod before the PKs that no matter what happens, that was a great game."

After two scoreless halves and two scoreless 5-minute overtime periods, the champion was to be determined in a shootout.

Both teams missed their first kick. On the second try, Brooke's Justyne Obeldobel beat Steubenville Catholic goalkeeper Anna Shaw. The Bruins took a 1-0 lead as Katrina Vosteen's shot hit the post and went wide.

After missing their first two shots, all the pressure was on Shaw to keep the Bruins off the board.

Despite 10 shutouts on the season for the junior netminder, Brooke did what it had to do to end the game.

Lindsay Chiodi, Brittany Dicapio, and Molly Cline all connected with their shots to win the shootout, 4-2.

"I had my list made out and I had my assistant coach make sure I didn't change my mind," Hall said. "We had the order, the players are comfortable with it. They executed perfectly. Their keeper made a great save and the other PKs were picture-perfect."

"Nobody expects the goalkeeper to make a save and that's what I told her. If you make one, you should win. Fortunately for us, she made more than one."

The Bruins' defense was stout, as netminder Connie Fuentes faced two shots. Brooke also limited the touches of Amanda Logan, the exciting

"We definitely played a winning game, doing what we always do, but it was a tough night on offense."

Chris Ledyard

goals this season.

"We really wanted to eliminate any dangerous touches and build-ups and I thought we did that," Hall said. "They do a pretty good job of setting up combinations with their midfielders and forwards. Kaitlin Starcher, if you are going to hand out an MVP award, she is the reason that game was 0-0. She played lights out. Our whole defense executed the plan but she was exceptional. I have never seen her play better than that."

While it was an exciting victory for the Bruins, the Crusaders were left a little disappointed but with no reason to hold their heads down.

"Amazing, what a fantastic game," Ledyard said. "We definitely played a winning game, doing what we always do, but it was a tough night on offense. We couldn't finish. It was a great game, though. What a dogfight!"

"I said to the girls after the game that now it's down to dumb luck. In a PK situation, it could go differently if we took the next five kicks. But this went in Brooke's favor and it extended our not being able to finish. Our defense had another shutout but we