

OVAC Cup: Finals

Park, Brooke Repeat

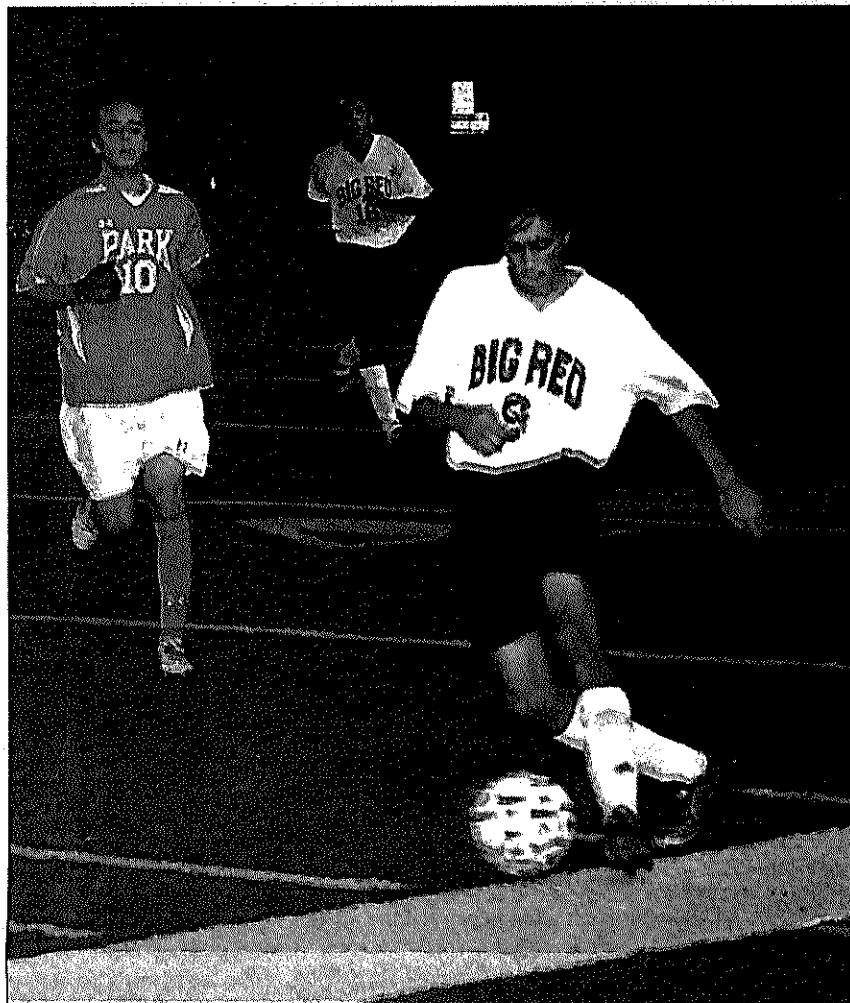


Photo by Josh Strope

Steubenville's Xavier McAllister (9) controls as Wheeling Park's Kohlby Jebbia moves in on defense Monday at the OVAC Cup boys' final at Wheeling Island. *View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net*

Patriots roll behind two goals by Henderson, a staunch defense

By **JOSH STROPE**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The Wheeling Park boys' soccer team may not be the same squad it was this time last season.

There are differences such as nine starters missing and two losses compared to none last season.

What the two squads do share, though, is the OVAC Cup championship.

The Patriots made it back-to-back titles behind two goals from Josh Henderson to beat Steubenville, 2-0, on Monday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We set that goal early this year to come back and win an OVAC championship for the second time in a row," Wheeling Park coach Mario Julian said. "We started off kind of slow, but we are on a good win streak right now, unbeaten in the last nine games, and we have four more regular-season games before the playoffs and this is definitely a good momentum builder to go for a state championship."

Despite the roster turnover, Wheeling Park is 10-2-4 and most impor-

tantly, playing its best soccer of the season.

Henderson has been the catalyst and is taking on more of a leadership role. The junior was a major contributor last season and received numerous post-season awards.

Now as one of two returning starters, much of the pressure falls on his shoulders. Monday showed he could handle that pressure.

Henderson scored in the 16th minute off a cross from A.J. Railing that Henderson captured in a crowd and buried to start the scoring.

It shifted the momentum in the Patriots' favor and it never left.

Steubenville (8-4-1) had some chances, but they were few and far between.

The Wheeling Park defense swallowed Big Red scoring ace Stephen Rossi and didn't allow him much room to breath.

On offense, the Patriots came shy numerous times of putting the game away early, either because of shots that went wide or over the crossbar.

Please See PARK, Page 14

Wilcox puts lone goal in the net as Bruins go back-to-back by topping Weir

By **JOSH STROPE**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The Brooke girls' soccer team had a flair for the dramatic during the OVAC Cup Tournament.

A goal in the last 2 minutes and a goal in overtime highlighted the Bruins' road to Wheeling Island Stadium, so why would they give anything else but another down-to-the-wire finish?

Ashley Wilcox provided the lone goal with 2:08 left on the scoreboard to give Brooke a 1-0 victory against Weir and the Bruins' second consecutive OVAC Cup championship Monday.

"Ashley Wilcox, she is our anchor in the back," Brooke coach Lee Weppler said. "One of the hardest-nosed girls I've ever coached and has a great head."

"In practice, we always work on getting her up in there. She loves pounding around, loves getting into the action. Every now and then, I turn her loose on corner kicks and she just happened to finish. She's been due."

With the game having that feeling of overtime looming, the



Photo by Josh Strope

Brooke's Justyne Obeldobel (15) lets one rip as Weir's Kassi Robinson defends on Monday. Far left is Riders goaltender Taylor Giangelini. *View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net*

Bruins (12-2-3) picked up the pressure and earned a corner kick.

Justyne Obeldobel fired a perfect cross into the middle of the

box where Wilcox jumped up above everyone else and headed the ball past Weir netminder Taylor Giangelini for the score in the 78th minute.

"It's awesome," Wilcox said. "I've been working for headers this whole season and I got one in the most important game."

"I didn't really think too much about it. I just wanted to get it in the net and I went all out for it. I hit it and then started screaming when I realized it went in."

The junior defender spent most of the day controlling Weir scoring threat Melina Maragos, but it was amazingly her offense that made the difference.

She fed the ball all day to Obeldobel, who fittingly got in on the scoring with an assist. The senior captain could have made the score 4-0 and took all the excitement out of the match had the net been just a foot higher.

As for Weir, the Red Riders couldn't get anything going against a Brooke defense determined to not let them score.

"They held a lot of people back," Weir coach Chris LeFever said. "They always had five, six, as many as eight players back. They clogged the middle and we couldn't get our passing game going very well."

Please See BRUINS, Page 15

Park

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"We played them earlier and it seemed like we could attack the box and be aggressive with them," Julian said. "We did a good job of getting in the box (Monday) but I don't think we knocked it down quite enough. We did a good job of attacking and played good possession. We had the ball a lot.

"We were able to get the balls wide, tacked down the corners and got a lot of crosses. We had a lot of corner kicks and throw-ins in their attacking third and we were just missing.

"It's a game and you have to play for a full 80 minutes and I'd like to thank Steubenville for being a good opponent. They gave us a battle and didn't go down with some scoring chances themselves."

Henderson scored Goal No. 2 in the 57th minute, taking a pass from Billy Fanning and shooting through a crowd and past Big Red goalkeeper Chris Nehrbas to double the lead.

"Josh has been tremendous," Julian said. "He is so tenacious. He put pressure on that defense all night. He scores. He loves to score goals and that's what you want your goalscorers and superstars to do."

Big Red saw their best chance to cut into the lead minutes later, with Wheeling Park goalie Ian Anderson out of the net. Kyle Gaughan saw a bouncing ball in front of the goal mouth, but his shot went wide and out of bounds.

Anderson saved five shots for the shutout.

"We played a good game but you have to give credit to Wheeling Park," Steubenville coach Greg Bowers said.

"Josh has been tremendous. He is so tenacious. He put pressure on that defense all night."

Park's Mario Julian
on Josh Henderson

"They pass so well and they attacked us from the outset. I'm proud of my kids and we showed we can compete on this level. This will be a good help for us come sectionals but (Monday night) was all about Wheeling Park and you have to give them all the credit."

Like Bowers, Julian is such a big fan of the OVAC Cup because of the preparation it gives for the upcoming state playoffs. Like the OVAC Cup Final, Wheeling Park is looking to get back to another championship game. This time though, they want to finish.

"Anytime you go into a single-elimination format in the middle of the season it is a big bonus," Julian said. "I think it is good to get that experience out of the way. To get that hunger and aggression and that feeling that if you lose, it's the end. This OVAC Tournament and the commissioner (Chuck Robinson) do a good job of making sure these kids have something like that."

Bruins

(Continued from Page 13)

"I'm very proud of my girls. They played a tough, intense game. We tried to make a few adjustments at halftime, trying to push the ball to the corners and get crosses, but nothing worked."

The Red Riders (10-3-3) had their chances with shots from Meghan Finton and Lindsay Thorp hitting the post late in the second half. Weir looked like it had the momentum before Brooke put on one last surge.

"I have so much faith in my team," Wilcox said. "I know we can get through anything. It's all about teamwork and that's how

you win games."

Added Wepler: "I couldn't be more proud of this group of girls the whole tournament. It's been close games, 1-0, 0-0, scoring last 2 minutes and overtime. I'm just really proud of how they keep fighting. The way our defense has stepped up with the leadership from our seniors. They are a great group of girls to coach."

Wilcox might have been the unlikeliest of goal scorers, but she did what she had to to put her name right alongside Maci Hascak and Brittany Decapio for late-game heroics in this run to the school's third OVAC crown.



OVAC Cup: Boys' Quarterfinals



One Goal Is Enough For Steubenville

Big Red nips
Silver Knights
by 1-0 count

By **ASHLEY
NEWMAN**

For The Intelligencer
WELLSBURG

The Steubenville Big Red boys' soccer team began the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference tournament on the right foot, using an opportunistic offense and a staunch defense in its victory against Tyler Consolidated, 1-0, at Brooke High School on Monday.

"Both teams played extremely hard," Big Red coach Greg Bowers said. "Tyler impressed me with their ball movement and their effort. They won a lot of 50-50 balls and in the end, we were able to get a goal and keep them off of the scoreboard."

"Robert Hines played an absolutely unbelievable game. He chased them down time after time and he continually turned balls outside and got them up the field for us. The rest of the guys supported him quite well."

"It was probably one of the best games that I've seen us play all year."

After a corner kick by Big Red was knocked around, Mason Yanda found the ball on his foot with nothing between him and Tyler Consolidated goalie Skylar Kinnard. Yanda made the Silver Knights pay, planting the ball into the back of the net and giving Steubenville the 1-0 lead with 16:29 to play in the first half.

"Mason had one of those in the last game," Bowers said. "He came

up and finished a big goal. That is what you expect a senior to do and he was able to do that for us."

The No. 5-seeded Silver Knights had several opportunities to tie the game, but came up empty each time.

"We were pressing a little bit and that was pretty obvious," Tyler Consolidated coach Scott Wall said. "We shot sooner than we needed to and we got into a little bit of a panic mode toward the end. Other than that, I'm pleased with our effort and we never gave up."

"I thought that it was a really good game. It was really clean and well played on both sides."

Big Red's Chris Nehrbas had five saves.

"We played a little thin," Bowers said. "We have a couple of boys out with sicknesses. Tayari (Lavender) couldn't go in the second half. He was a little banged up. But, we ran 13 guys in and out and all of them gave everything that they had."

"That is why we came out with the victory."

Kinnard had six saves for Tyler Consolidated in a losing effort.

"It was a really hard-fought game," Wall said.

"I thought that Steubenville did a great job. We got a little bit unlucky, but give them credit. They had guys in the right spots at the right time."

"Their keeper did a great job and their defense played well. I wish them the best of luck in the tournament."

Big Red (7-3-1) will face St. Clairsville in the second round of the OVAC Cup at Wheeling Island Stadium beginning at 2 p.m., Saturday.



Photo by Ashley Newman

St. Clairsville teammates Dylan Brumfield, center, and Zach Winlesdorffer race the ball upfield as Weir's Chad Ford trails the play during Monday's action in the OVAC Cup at Brooke High School in Wellsburg.

Top Seed Weir Ousted by St.C.

Ellison PK stuns
the previously
unbeaten Riders

By **ASHLEY
NEWMAN**

For The Intelligencer
WELLSBURG

The opening round of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference boys' soccer tournament at Brooke High School got off to a wild start Monday as undefeated and No. 1 seed Weir fell to St. Clairsville in overtime, 3-2.

"We played a great team," St. Clairsville coach Gary Watt said. "Everybody knows that Weir and a couple of other teams are the standard. We were just determined that we were going to play the best game that we possibly could and come in

here with as much heart as we could."

"We played with a lot of Red Devil pride and the guys showed it. We never looked like, felt like, or acted like we couldn't win this game. We really came out and gave it our all."

For Weir coach Joe Pepe, the result was a disappointing one, but he wants his team to remain optimistic.

"This was bound to happen," he said. "We were 9-0-2 coming in. The bubble has been burst, but the sun will come up (today). Now, we have to worry about the rest of the season and state play."

St. Clairsville's Travis Ellison and Weir's Cody Morgan each had a goal in the first half as the teams began the second 40 minutes tied 1-1.

The fireworks began with less than 10 minutes to play. Chad Ford

was awarded a penalty kick and the talented striker made good, finding the back of the net and giving Weir a 2-1 lead with 8:21 remaining.

As the clock ticked down, the Red Devils made one final rush in a desperate attempt to tie the game. Matt Yudasz found himself free on the right wing and he lobbed a high-arching ball over the head of Weir goalie Josh Barney. As the ball rolled into the net the St. Clairsville sideline burst into celebration, as the goal tied the game 2-2 with 30 seconds remaining.

"We talked about it on the bus," Watt explained. "We had a meeting and we discussed the things that make this team special. We play as a team, never give up and we will battle until the very last second. We did that again."

Please See ST.C., Page 14

Red Devils shocked

• Linsly upsets St. Clairsville girls

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

STEBENVILLE — On paper, this appeared nothing more than a mere formality.

After all, St. Clairsville had earlier taken Linsly apart at the seams, scoring early and often in a 10-3 regular season laugher.

Tuesday night's OVAC Cup quarterfinal rematch at Harding Stadium was expected to be just more of the same for Joe Kubik's Lady Red Devils and supremely talented senior Jaclyn Dutton.

The Clemson University-bound Dutton had conducted a personal clinic when the two teams last met, connecting for a staggering seven goals.

Apparently, Erica Hall's Cadets were unphased. "There were a lot of doubters, I'm sure. Not many gave us a chance," Hall acknowledged.

Even as Linsly junior Alex Frawley recorded the game's first goal midway through the opening half Tuesday, Kubik sensed his team was playing with little sense of urgency.

"I had a bad feeling because we came out flat," advised Kubik. "We just didn't come to play in that first half. I would think overconfidence had something to do with it."

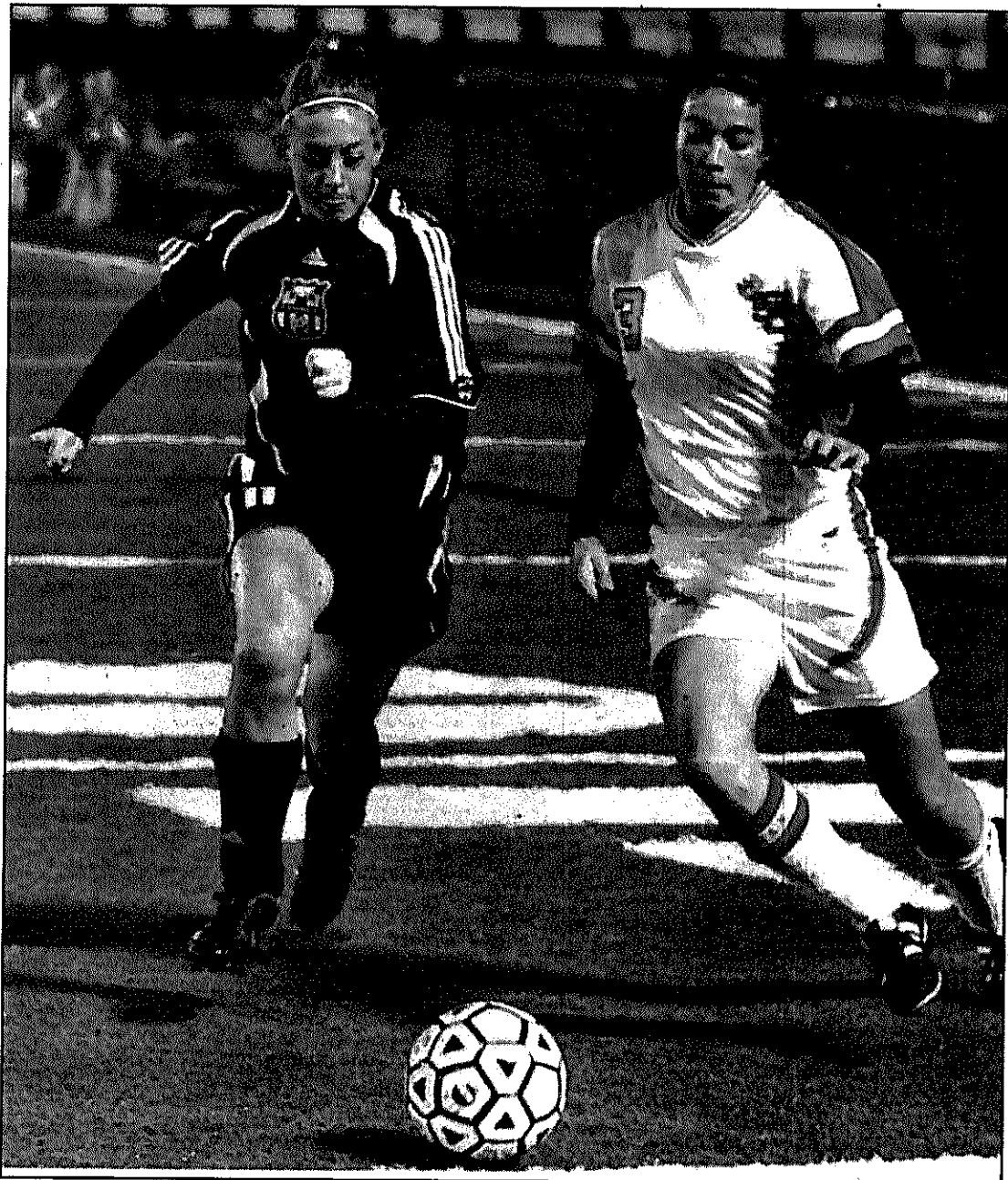
Before the first 40 minutes expired, Frawley had scored another goal. So had teammates Anna Giesmann and Aliya Kureishy.

Trailing 4-0, not even the savvy Dutton could work enough second half magic to rally the Red Devils.

Though Dutton did manage to tally twice and a majority of second half play was confined to the Cadets' end, Linsly was able to sustain and fashion a 4-2 victory.

"Every girl (who got off the bus tonight) believed we could win," a happy Hall related. "In our earlier match, we just failed to execute, especially on defense. Tonight, we

See, RED, Page B4



LINSLY'S Halyn Archer, left, battles St. Clairsville's Katie Tomassetti for possession of the ball during Tuesday night's OVAC Cup quarterfinal at Harding Stadium in Steubenville. The Cadets upset the Red Devils, 4-2. Additional images can be found at cu.times-leaderonline.com

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

SPORTS

● Red

Continued from Page B1

worked together so much better. I'm just thrilled for our girls."

Make no mistake, this was a bitter defeat for St. C. which fell for just the second time in 11 matches.

"We played like we're capable (in the second half) but falling behind by four was too much to overcome," Kubik explained.

Not surprisingly, Dutton attracted considerable attention. She was generally double and triple-teamed for the duration.

"She's such a special player," Hall offered. "I'm sure it has to be extremely frustrating for Jaclyn not being able (to advance) in this tournament."

Dutton and St. C., of course, are certainly not out of options. The Lady Devils (7-2-2) have regular season action remaining prior to OHSAA postseason play

later in October.

Frawley's corner kick managed to avoid St. C. goalkeeper Jasmine Vincent with 21:08 remaining in the opening half.

Less than three minutes later, at 18:55, Giesmann duplicated Frawley's corner conversion and it was 2-0.

The chilly, misty evening became even longer for St. C. when Frawley whizzed a 25-footer past Vincent for a 3-0 lighting at 6:53.

Kureishy, another Linsly junior, made it 4-0 at 6:11 with a drive which eluded a diving Vincent.

St. C. returned to control second half play. Just 3:44 into the period, Dutton wheeled and dealed to beat Linsly's Morgan Lee.

With 29:27 remaining, Dutton delivered again and St. C. had new life.

The Lady Devils' star nearly connected for a third

time at 25:25. But her right angle kick glanced off the crossbar and fell harmlessly away. On the night, Dutton charted seven shots on goal.

Linsly, now 11-6, battles Brooke Saturday morning in a semifinal match. The Bruins were 2-1 winners against John Marshall in Tuesday's earlier game.

Lee and Lauren Zavatsky teamed in net for Linsly in Tuesday's victory.

St. Clairsville welcomes Cambridge to the Junior Sports Complex Wednesday, Oct. 7.

Summary:
Linsly 4, St. Clairsville 2
1. Linsly: Frawley (unassisted at 21:08); 2. Giesmann (unassisted at 18:55); 3. Frawley (unassisted at 6:53); 4. Kureishy (unassisted at 6:11).
5. St. Clairsville: Dutton (unassisted at 38:16); 6. Dutton (unassisted at 29:27).
Goalies: Linsly: Zavatsky, Lee. St. Clairsville: Vincert.

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Red Riders Blank Crusaders Girls

By MIKE MATHISON
For the News-Register

WHEELING — If the Weir girls' soccer team can play better than this, teams in the West Virginia Class AA-A are in trouble.

The Red Riders played near flawless soccer during Saturday's 3-0 victory against Steubenville Catholic at Wheeling Island Stadium in one OVAC Cup semifinal.

"We played our game today," Red Riders coach Chris LeFever said. "Everyone from starters to those coming off the bench did their jobs. Everybody really took pride in this. It was a total team effort. The team did an excellent job."

The winners were sans captain Megan Duke, who was out with a contusion suffered in the OVAC quarterfinal game against Madonna.

"I pulled Kassi Robinson back there in place of Megan and she really played well," LeFever said. "Bobby Jo Julian also played well. She just anticipates like you can't believe. Taylor (goalkeeper Gianangeli) played solidly."

Emily Lescalette scored off a pass from Milena Maragos 5:08 into the game. Weir made it 2-0 just 30 seconds before halftime when Meghan Finton slipped one to the back of the net.

"They just flat outplayed

us today," Crusaders coach John Madden said. "The first half they were getting most of the 50-50 balls and in the second half it seemed that everything we touched instead of going to our team went to their team. They capitalized on it. Their defense worked well."

"They collapsed well and kept our two big guns (Amanda Looman and Margaret Beigel) from getting any good shots. In the first half we had a lot of decent shots that just went straight to the keeper."

Lescalette scored again with 15:12 left in the game.

"That goal right before half, I think, shut down any momentum Central had," said LeFever.

"We played small ball and we did it well. Don't get me wrong, there's nothing fancy. We put the ball on the ground and we moved it well."

"No one does anything by themselves on this team. It's all a team effort."

Wind played a major factor. The Crusaders had the wind in the first half and the Red Riders had it in the second half. One of Central's big weapons is the foot of goalkeeper Anna Shaw and that was neutralized in the second half as she had to kick into the wind.

"If we had won the toss we were going to go into the wind in the first half and have the wind with us in the



second half," LeFever said. "We've been in the situation before," Madden said of being down at halftime. "It's not a matter of what the score was at halftime because we felt we could come back. The problem was we had so many little breakdowns on defense at midfield, where we were missing a starter."

"The 2-0 lead at halftime wasn't as big a deal of what we were seeing in the first half that we needed to get corrected."

Gianangeli finished with nine saves while Shaw had seven.

BOYS

Steubenville 3
St. Clairsville 0

WHEELING — There have been times when Steubenville Big Red boys soccer coach Greg Bowers is not quite sure which team will show up.

Big Red is unusually young this season and, at times, has played so.

That was not the case Saturday during one semifinal of the OVAC Cup contest with St. Clairsville at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Steubenville took a 1-0 lead into halftime and came out and scored twice in the first eight minutes of the second half and rode it to a victory.



OVAC Cup: Girls' Quarterfinals



Linsly's Alex Frawley, left, battles St. Clairsville's Chelsea Wamsley for the ball during their OVAC Cup quarterfinal match Tuesday night at Harding Stadium in Steubenville.

Photo by Mike Palmer

Linsly Doubles Up St. Clairsville

Cadets avenge loss to move on to the semifinals

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

STEUBENVILLE — St. Clairsville has the best player in the valley and defeated Linsly by a 10-3 count two weeks ago on the Cadets' home turf.

Tuesday's OVAC Cup quarterfinal at Harding Stadium must have been a foregone conclusion, right?

The Linsly players and coaches wore shirts that said "BeLieve" and maybe they were the only ones who really thought they had a chance, but they were the ones playing between the lines.

The Cadets (11-6) showed they weren't handing a victory to St.

Clairsville, jumping out to a 4-0 lead and holding on to win 4-2 against the Red Devils and earning a spot in the semifinals opposite Brooke on Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We worked on the offside trap because they killed us with it the last game," first-year Linsly coach Erica Hall said. "We came out in the first half and executed, every one played strong, and we went up 4-0."

"At halftime, I told them that they scored 9, 10 goals easy on us (the last game) and they were capable of doing it again so we needed to make sure that we kept our head. We played a little sloppy in the second half and I think our nerves got to us but we stayed strong."

"A lot of people had doubts about this game and thinking we were going to get blown out again, but our squad and the coaches walked on the field and we all believed we could do it."

"We worked on the offside trap because they killed us with it the last game."

Linsly's Erica Hall

The Cadets struck first in the 19th minute when Alex Frawley scored directly off a corner kick, getting the ball past St. Clairsville goalkeeper Jasmine Vincent.

Less than 2 minutes later, this time on a corner kick by Anna Giesmann, the ball bounced off a St. Clairsville defender and into the goal for a 2-0 lead.

Please See LINSLY, Page 16

Brooke Avoids Upset Bid

Monarchs put scare into the top seed

By MIKE MATHISON
For The Intelligencer

STEUBENVILLE — Don't think Brooke soccer coach Lee Weppler didn't talk to his girls about the No. 1 seed in the boys' Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cup event being defeated Monday night.

"It was mentioned," Weppler said. "We definitely talked about that."

Weppler also knew this was only a No. 1 vs. No. 8 contest on paper as his Bruins took on John Marshall at Harding Stadium.

"This was a tough draw with them being 8," he said. "They

played us really hard at the beginning of the year (a 1-0 Brooke victory). We were definitely worried about this game."

The Bruins avoided the upset with a 2-1 victory against the Monarchs.

"We're just glad to get this win and move onto Saturday, where we hope to come out strong and get another one," Weppler said.

Brooke will take on Linsly, a 4-2 winner against St. Clairsville, at 10 a.m. on Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium in one semifinal.

Brittany DeCapio scored for the Bruins for a 1-0 lead in the second half off a pass from Kirsten Minger.

"I thought we played a very nice game," Monarchs coach Cindy Lawther said. "I thought we played a better game of controlling posses-

sion in the second half than in the first half.

"In the first half we were kind of playing Brooke's game. That's not us at our best."

John Marshall's Katey Dancy knotted the score at 1-1 with 17:11 left in the contest.

The Monarchs did a good job of keeping the offensive pressure on Brooke in the second half.

"Their center-mids possessed the ball very well," Weppler said. "No. 7 (Julie Young) played a very good game out of the middle holding possession. They did very well."

Brooke eventually made a run down the sideline and got a corner kick out of it.

Please See BROOKE, Page 16

Brooke

(Continued from Page 15)

Justyne Obeldobel took the corner and found Maci Hascak for a header that slipped into the net and gave

the No. 1 seed a 2-1 lead with 3:27 left in the contest.

"Justyne's corner kicks all night were fantastic," Weppler said. "At the

beginning of the game we had tons of opportunities and just couldn't finish one."

Jessica Kennedy finished

with six saves for the Bruins.

Sara Friend had five saves for John Marshall.

"I am very proud of how they did," Lawther said.

Linsly

(Continued from Page 15)

While the Cadets were finding ways to score, St. Clairsville phenom Jaclyn Dutton was getting her usual treatment of being hovered over wherever she went.

This time it was Whitney Thompson that had the unenviable task of containing Ohio's third-leading scorer.

"We knew Whitney was the one person that would 100 percent be able to shut her down with the help of the defense," Hall said. "Our big thing was that Whitney Thompson is invisible and we have to play like she isn't on the field. She'll take care of her job and the rest of the defense just had to take care of their job."

Back on the offensive end, Linsly struck again with two goals even quicker than the first pair.

Frawley fired a shot from 25 yards out that snuck behind Vincent at the 34th minute. All it took was 42 seconds for the Cadets to make that lead grow to 4-0 with a goal from Aliya Kureishy.

"I thought we came out flat in the first half and it cost us," St. Clairsville coach Joe Kubik said. "I was worried that we beat them so easily in the regular season that maybe we would have been a little overconfident and maybe that was it, I don't know. I can't explain it. We dug too big of a hole to get out of."

While the Linsly defense did an outstanding job on Dutton, she couldn't be contained forever and almost single-handedly put the Red Devils back into the game.

She scored in the 44th minute, just getting the ball over the goal line after taking a shot in a crowded penalty box.

In the 51st minute she found the goal again, taking a pass from Katie Tomassetti down the sideline, turning inside, juking two defenders and beating goalkeeper Morgan Lee to cut the Linsly lead in half.

She almost inched the Red Devils (7-2-2) even closer minutes later, but her shot off an indirect kick hit the top corner of the goalpost.

"I thought we came out flat in the first half and it cost us."

St. C. coach Joe Kubik

With the momentum clearly in St. Clairsville's favor, Linsly had 25 minutes to just hang on and survive.

"We had to keep our heads and I was constantly talking to Alex, talking to Brett (Nanners), talking to Aliya that we have to keep our heads," Hall said. "We were getting a little scattered on the field and I think they figured out that we have this game as long as we did what we did the first half."

While Linsly seemingly was tired at the beginning of the half, it soon became St. Clairsville that looked winded and despite a few attempts to get things going, the Cadets held strong until the final seconds ran off the scoreboard.

"Brett Nanners, a freshman in the back, hasn't been playing like a freshman at all," Hall said.

"As a sweeper, she's been leading our defense and they listen to her. Alex Frawley and Aliya Kureishy in the center controlled the ball and was carrying us in the beginning. Our goalies, Lauren Zavatsky and Morgan Lee, have been sharing time all year and they came up with some big saves to really excite us.

"Every one was just playing awesome all around. We started off together as a young team and we've grown a lot. We said the tournament is a new season and we are ready to go."

The Cadets lost the Bruins, 2-1, early in the season so Saturday will be another chance to avenge a past defeat.

Cup

Continued from Page C1

down they didn't respond as a seasoned, veteran team would."

"This was a great win," said Bowers. "We played extremely well. We're definitely proud of our team. We executed our game plan as well as we have all year. We possessed the ball well and played it out to the wings well and our defense played one outstanding game."

Big Red goalkeeper Chris Nehrba had a relatively easy afternoon.

"They're a possession team and they did a fantastic job of it and we couldn't possess the ball and that's not a good combination," Watt said. "We didn't get a look at all. I think technically we might have had one shot on goal."

"I don't know how to explain how you go from playing a team like Weir and playing solid and go to playing Steubenville and not get a shot on goal."

"You have to give it to their defense. They owned the midfield and they controlled the game."

"Steubenville played an excellent game. You have to give all the credit to them. They just beat us."

OVAC Cup

OVAC Cup Schedule

BOYS

Quarterfinals

Monday, Sept. 28

(at Brooke)

Weir (1) vs. St. Clairsville (8), 5 p.m.
Tyler Consolidated (4) vs. Steubenville (5), 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 30

(at Brooke)

Wheeling Park (2) vs. Linsly (7), 5 p.m.
Indian Creek (3) vs. Wheeling Central (6)

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Semifinals

Saturday, Oct. 3

(at Wheeling Island Stadium)

Sept. 28 winners, 2 p.m.

Sept. 30 winners, 4 p.m.

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Final

Monday, Oct. 5

(at Wheeling Island Stadium)

Semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m.

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GIRLS

Quarterfinals

Tuesday, Sept. 29

(at Steubenville)

Brooke (1) vs. John Marshall (8), 6 p.m.
St. Clairsville (4) vs. Linsly (5), 8 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 1

(at Steubenville)

Steub. Catholic (2) vs. Edison (7), 8 p.m.
Weir (3) vs. Weirton Madonna (8), 8 p.m.

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Semifinals

Saturday, Oct. 3

(at Wheeling Island Stadium)

Sept. 29 winners, 10 a.m.

Oct. 1 winners, Noon

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Final

Monday, Oct. 5

(at Wheeling Island Stadium)

Semifinal winners, 6:30 p.m.

OVAC SOCCER

OVAC Soccer Standings

BOYS

Division One

Team	Conf. Record	Points	Avg.
Wheeling Park	5-0-2	149.5	21.3
Indian Creek	7-2-0	174	19.3
Brooke	3-3-1	73	10.4
John Marshall	2-7-1	47.5	4.7
Beaver Local*	2-0-0	25	12.5
Pkbg. South*	3-1-0	35	8.75
Cambridge*	1-3-1	22.5	4.5
Zanesville*	5-0-2	0	0

*Not eligible for conference title or OVAC Cup

Division Two

Team	Conf. Record	Points	Avg.
Weir	6-0-2	191.5	23.9
Steubenville	5-2-1	120.5	15.0
St. Clairsville	4-3-2	107.5	11.9
Oak Glen	4-3-3	115	11.5
Edison	4-6-1	100	9.09
Magnolia	1-8-0	13	1.4
East Liverpool	0-7-0	0	0

Division Three

Team	Conf. Record	Points	Avg.
Tyler Consolidated	7-3-0	181	18.1
Wheeling Central	4-3-1	114.5	14.3
Linsly	4-2-2	103	12.8
Steub. Catholic	3-6-1	81.5	9.0
Monroe Central	4-4-0	60	7.5
Rosecrans*	1-0-0	10	10
Shenandoah*	1-2-0	10	3.3
Caldwell*	0-2-0	0	0
Trinity*	0-1-0	0	0

*Not eligible for conference title or OVAC Cup

GIRLS

Division One

Team	Conf. Record	Points	Avg.
Brooke	7-0-2	223.5	24.8
John Marshall	5-8-1	114	8.1
Indian Creek	2-5-1	38.5	4.8
Wheeling Park	1-6-0	19	2.7
Pkbg. South*	4-1-0	113	22.6
Beaver Local*	1-0-0	21	21
Cambridge*	2-1-1	55	13.7
Zanesville*	0-0-0	0	0

*Not eligible for conference title or OVAC Cup

Division Two

Team	Conf. Record	Points	Avg.
Weir	7-1-2	203.5	20.3
St. Clairsville	7-1-2	195.5	19.5
Edison	4-6-1	92	8.2
East Liverpool	2-4-1	54.5	7.7
Oak Glen	2-6-1	44.5	4.9
Steubenville	2-8-0	28	2.5
Magnolia	1-7-1	20	2.2

Division Three

Team	Conf. Record	Points	Avg.
Steub. Catholic	8-1-1	211.5	21.1
Linsly	9-3-0	201	16.7
Weirton Madonna	5-3-3	129.5	11.7
Wheeling Central	3-8-1	79	7.9
Tyler Consolidated	0-8-0	0	0
Rosecrans*	0-0-0	0	0

*Not eligible for conference title or OVAC Cup

St. C. boys blanked in OVAC semifinals by Big Red, 3-0

By MIKE MATHISON
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — There have been times when Steubenville Big Red boys soccer coach Greg Bowers is not quite sure which team will show up. Big Red is unusually young this season and, at times, has played so.

That was not the case on Saturday during one semifinal of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cup contest with

St. Clairsville at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Steubenville took a 1-0 lead into halftime and came out and scored twice in the first eight minutes of the second half and rode it to a 3-0 victory.

"That took the wind out of our sails," St. Clairsville coach Gary Watt said of the two quick goals in the beginning of the second half. "We're a young squad and they just didn't handle that well. Once they get

See, CUP, Page C2

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Matt Yudasz chases a loose ball during Saturday's OVAC Cup Semifinal game against Steubenville at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Photo: MIKE MATHISON





OVAC Cup:
Boys' Quarterfinals



Patriots Edge Cadets Again

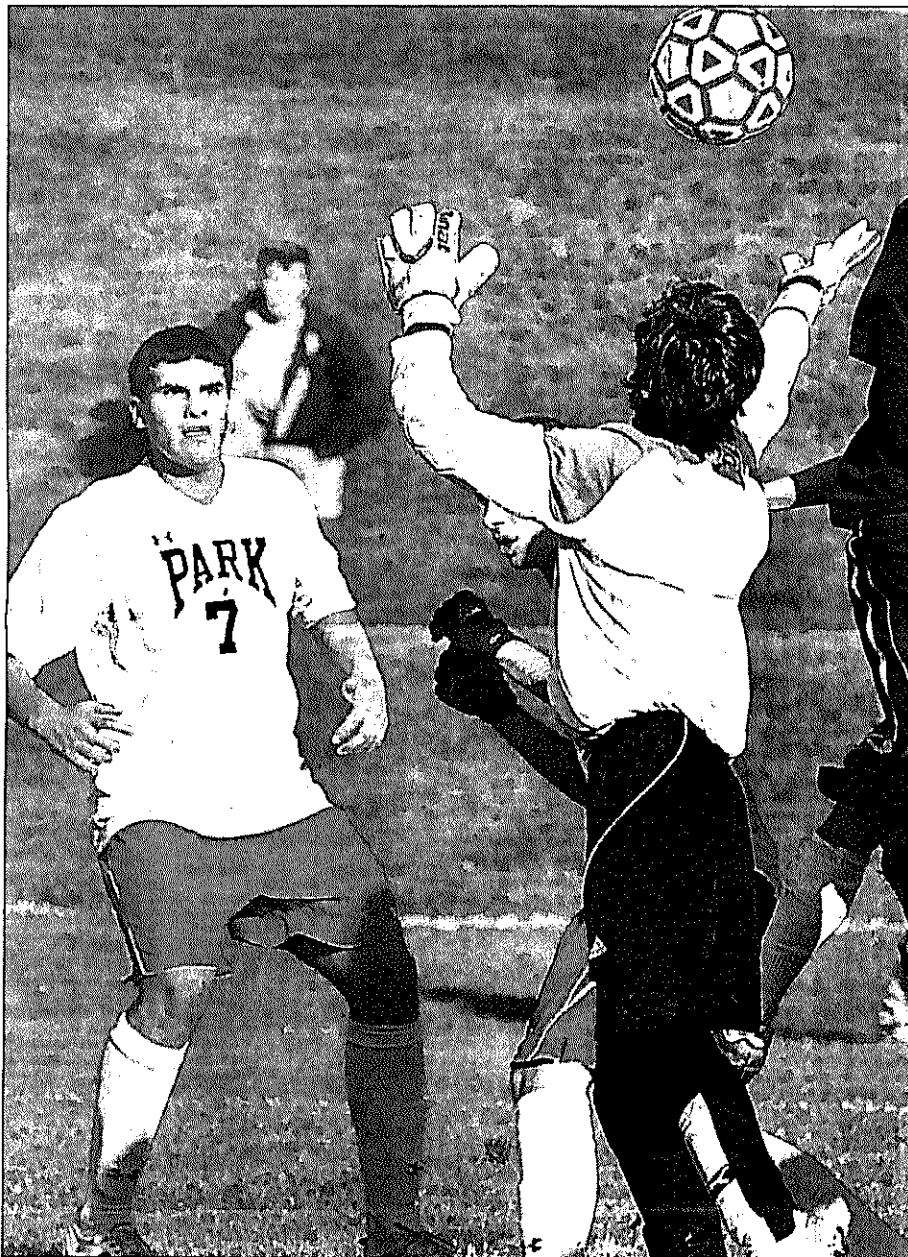


Photo by Scott McCloskey

Linsly goalkeeper James Mull, right, reaches for the ball over a Wheeling Park player while the Patriots' Rob Kondrad (7) looks on. The Patriots won, 3-2, to advance in tourney. *View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.*

Park wins in finals rematch

By SCOTT McCLOSKEY
Staff Writer

WELLSBURG — In a rematch from last year's OVAC Soccer Cup Tournament final, the Wheeling Park boys' soccer team came away with 3-2 quarterfinal victory Wednesday evening against the Linsly Cadets at the Brooke High School Soccer Complex.

"It seemed like in the first half we were the more patient team and were able to get some good scoring chances," Wheeling Park coach Mario Julian said. "They were followups off shots and we got a couple of goals inside the 6-yard box, which we stress.

"Earlier in the season, we just weren't putting those away, and (Wednesday) we did."

Wheeling Park's Errin Baynes didn't waste much time as more than 3 minutes into the match, the sophomore popped one into the goal from just a few yards out.

Baynes' second goal came minutes later in the 23rd minute.

Park's Josh Henderson passed the ball to Kohlby Jebbia, who's initial shot on goal deflected off the crossbar landing in front of Baynes, who took advantage by driving in another quick goal.

With 6 minutes left in the half, Henderson scored Park's third goal off a long pass from Baynes.

In the 37th minute, Linsly's Senai Tesfagiorgis gave his team some momentum for the second half by scoring the Cadets' first goal.

Please See PATRIOTS, Page 18

Central Wins in Final Seconds

Wilson nets winner with 2 seconds to go

By MIKE MATHISON
For The Intelligencer

WELLSBURG — Coaches talk to their teams all the time about playing from whistle to buzzer.

Wednesday's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cup contest between Indian Creek and Wheeling Central under the lights at Brooke High School is a testament to what coaches talk about.

"They've always been possessive with the ball," Indian Creek coach Dan Lawrence said of the Maroon Knights. "They always outpossess teams, but sometimes they can't finish. But that's why there's 80 minutes in a game. It took 7 seconds for them to go 108 yards.

"Very rarely do you have a last-sec-

ond goal because teams usually start preparing for overtime.

"They kept going and we had a mental lapse in the back and they were capitalistic. Maybe we were preparing for overtime and they kept going and it caught us."

Senior Josh Wilson buried the ball in the back of the net with 2 seconds left for Wheeling Central's 1-0 victory.

"We tell them all the time you have to play 80 minutes and it took them 79 minutes and 58 seconds to score,"

"We tell them all the time you have to play 80 minutes and it took them 79 minutes and 58 seconds to score."

Wheeling Central coach Lou Vargo

Maroon Knights coach Lou Vargo said. "Their goalkeeper (Eric Price) did a great job on us. We couldn't get one by him until we finally capitalized on one."

Added Lawrence: "Eric played phenomenally. He kept us in the game as long as we were."

Price finished with 12 saves.

The Maroon Knights and Redskins are similar in they both like to possess the ball.

Please See CENTRAL, Page 18

(Continued from Page 13)

"They have a great team," Vargo said of Indian Creek. "They possess the ball well and that's our whole game — possession soccer — making runs on the net and scoring. It just didn't go in until Josh scored."

That gives the Maroon Knights a 4 p.m. date Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium with city rival Wheeling Park in one semifinal. The Patriots

defeated Linsly, 3-2, in the opener at Brooke.

"Park hasn't played us the last couple of years, so we're looking forward to it," Vargo said. "These kids are all friends. They've played together and they grew up together."

Lawrence was almost speechless after his team dropped to 7-5.

"They spent a lot of time in our end all game," Lawrence said. "They

outpossessed us all game. We were unsettled all game and we couldn't get our game going. It was tough.

"They had better shots than we did. We only had a couple of good ones. We didn't crash the net and we weren't back side a couple of times.

"Whoever executes wins. It doesn't matter if it's in the backyard or for the World Cup. They executed their game and we couldn't get going."

Patriots

(Continued from Page 13)

The Cadets' first solid opportunity at scoring in the second half came in the 60th minute, but Tyler Gambino came away empty after his shot on goal deflected off the crossbar.

The second half went

scoreless until Tesfagiorgis earned his second goal with 2:15 left on the clock to bring them within one score of the Patriots.

As the final seconds ticked off the clock, the Cadets' David Cho made one last effort to tie the game by putting the ball in front of Patriots' goal-

keeper Ian Anderson, only to have it turned away, preserving the victory.

"I thought our guys put a great effort in, we knew coming in that Park and us would be a battle," Linsly coach Eric Fries said.

"Win or lose, I thought the best team was going to

go through. They have a great bunch of guys and they're putting it together this year.

"I think we outplayed them in the last 20 minutes tremendously. They just had to keep one goal ahead of us and that's what they did, they did a nice job doing that."

SPORTS

THE INTELLIGENCER — Wheeling, W.Va. — 17

OVAC Cup: Girls' Quarterfinals

Riders Survive Blue Dons

Weir captures game 3-1 in a shootout

By ASHLEY NEWMAN
For The Intelligencer

STEBENVILLE — For rivals Weir High and Weirton Madonna, 80 minutes was not enough.

The two squads battled into overtime and eventually a shootout to decide their Ohio Valley Athletic Conference girls' soccer tournament game at Harding Stadium late Thursday night.

Eventually, Weir survived with the victory, taking the shootout 3-1 to earn its spot in the next round of the OVAC Cup.

"It was a very intense game," Weir coach Chris LeFever said. "Madonna really brought their A-game. There was a lot of pressure out there. It wasn't a really pretty game on either side. I felt that there was a lot of intensity from both of us and that caused all of the girls to rush to the ball."

"Madonna did a nice job with the 50-50 balls, though."

Even in defeat, Madonna coach Terry Case was proud of his team's effort.

"That is our best game of the year, by far," he said. "We've been playing really well lately. We've made some moves and adjustments in the middle of the field. It has paid off. Isabella (Anile), Lia Capito and Lizzy Schloss

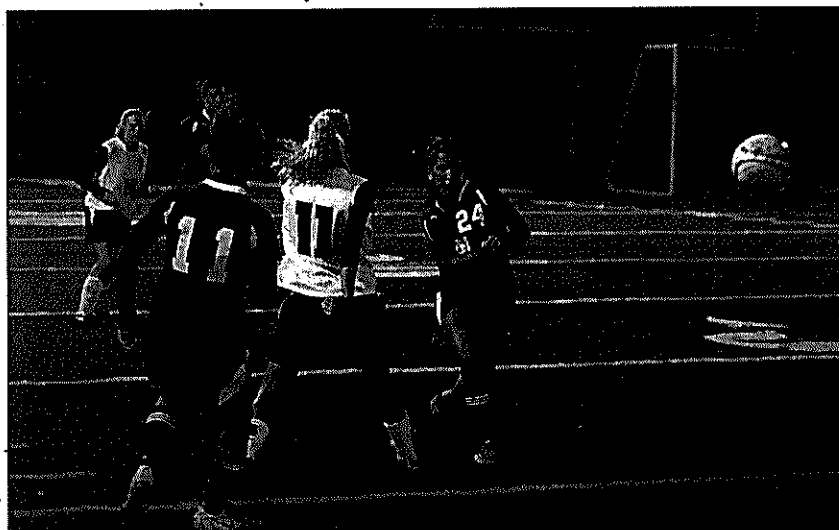


Photo by Ashley Newman

Weirton Madonna's Lia Capito (24) advances the ball as teammate Kara Mezan, left, and Weir's Kassi Robinson (11) battle for position.

played tremendous.

"Everyone did really well and we were solid right down the middle."

Weir got on the board first, as Milena Maragos found the back of the net on a setup pass from Emily Lescalette, giving the Red Riders a 1-0 lead midway through the first half.

"We had a goal early and we had another goal, too, but we were offside on the play," LeFever said. "It was a nice setup and a nice flick, but that's the way it goes sometimes. We were persistent and that paid off."

Weir took the 1-0 lead into half and it seemed as though the advantage might be enough to carry the Red Riders to victory, but with under 20 minutes to play, Carly Sekely received a pass from Jen Nogay and skipped the ball past Weir goaltender Taylor Gianangeli, tying the game 1-1.

"We finally got that lucky bounce," Casey explained. "We've been working really hard lately and we haven't been able to get that lucky bounce."

The two teams exchanged chances in a furious final 10 minutes of regulation before the whistle sounded, signaling a 10 minute overtime period to decide which team would move on in the tournament.

Neither mounted much of an offensive attack in the extra frame, forcing the teams to head into a shootout.

"I hate to go to PKs, because you never know what can happen and it is a lot of luck," LeFever said. "But, we've been practicing PKs and I'm very comfortable in that kind of situation because of our goalkeeper, Taylor Gianangeli. She does an excellent job and she is a great anchor to have back there."

Looman, Crusaders Advance

Steub. Catholic too much for Edison, 3-0

By ASHLEY NEWMAN
For The Intelligencer

STEBENVILLE — The Steubenville Catholic Central girls' soccer team took a step toward the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship Thursday at Harding Stadium, defeating Edison 3-0.

Amanda Looman had a stellar game for the Crusaders, scoring two first-half goals to give Steubenville Catholic the early momentum.

"I just want to congratulate Edison," Steubenville Catholic coach John Madden said. "They played a fantastic game. We beat them last Saturday and they came right back as though there was no history this year and they expected to win."

"In the second half, I don't know what Jeremy (Angelo) fed them, but they came out super pumped up. They looked really good. Our girls stepped up and obviously stayed along with them with our defense. We did well and our offense did what it needed to

do."

Edison coach Jeremy Angelo believes his team has made strides during the last week.

"We played them Saturday and we did a lot better (Thursday)," he said. "We had 6 or 7 opportunities, but Anna (Shaw) played a good game. She kept the slate clean for them."

"They are a good team and there is a reason why they've won 11 games. It is not because they just go out and play teams that are not very good. They are very good and very physical. We matched that."

Looman set the tone almost immediately, putting the Crusaders in front 1-0 2 minutes into the contest with a goal off a Sarah Marrow assist. In the 34th minute, Looman found the back of the net on an unassisted goal to put Steubenville Catholic in front 2-0 heading into the half.

"The girls are looking at this game and not the next game," Madden said. "They're looking just to make every game our best and not to give anything less than their best every time we are on the field. It doesn't matter who we are playing or what part of the season it is."

"We just want to focus on the game that we are playing and get all of the distractions out. We don't care that we beat Edison five days ago. We saw what happened between St. Clairsville and Linsly. St. Clairsville crushed Linsly and then Linsly came back and beat them here in the Cup, 4-2. Any team in the valley can step up at any time and they can show that they know how to play soccer."

The second half was more of a defensive struggle, as both teams battled for control.

"We did much better in the second half and we stopped playing kickball," Angelo said. "We've been stressing keeping possession all year. If you possess the ball, they can't get easy opportunities and easy scores. When you play kickball, it makes it easier for them and you are chasing."

The Edison defense wilted near the end of the contest when Margaret Biegel scored an unassisted goal to put the Crusaders in front 3-0 with more than 7 minutes remaining.

"Their defense on Amanda Looman and Margaret Biegel just kept us from doing a lot of the things that we wanted to do," Madden explained.

Continued from page B1

Patriots Advance To Final

Wheeling Park will play Steubenville for crown

By TRACY WATSON
For the News-Register

WHEELING — Missed opportunities are something that can very easily come back to haunt a team in any sport.

Saturday afternoon, Coach Mario Julian's Wheeling Park boys' soccer team watched numerous opportunities go by the board. However, it was the two it did manage to take advantage of that ultimately made the difference against city-rival Wheeling Central.



After watching a 1-0 lead disappear midway through the second half, Patriots junior forward Josh Henderson converted a penalty kick 65 minutes into the match for the eventual game-winner and Wheeling Park

picked up a hard-fought 2-1 victory against the Maroon Knights in an OVAC Cup semifinal at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Next up for Julian's 9-2-4 record club is a 7:30 p.m. date with Steubenville on Monday back at the stadium in the boys' championship match. Big Red advanced with a convincing 3-0 verdict against St. Clairsville on Saturday.

See, Patriots, Page B2

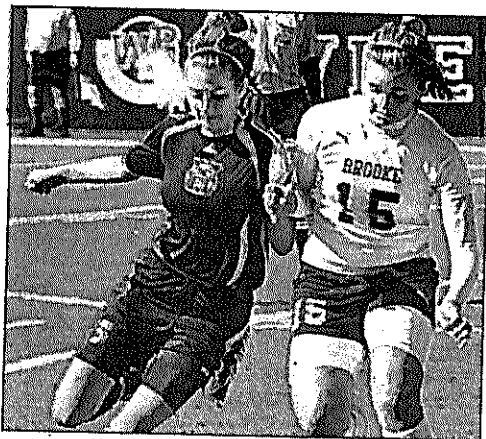


Photo by Art Linnan

Linsly's Angela Tolbert, left, battles Brooke's Whitney Taylor for the ball Saturday. View additional images at cu.news-register.net

DeCapio's Goal Propels Brooke

Bruins will face Weir on Monday for girls' OVAC Cup crown

By TRACY WATSON
For The News-Register

WHEELING — Defense was the name of the game Saturday morning as top-seeded Brooke and Linsly hooked up in an Girls' OVAC Cup semifinal soccer match at Wheeling Island Stadium.

After battling through 80 scoreless minutes and very few opportunities for either side, Bruins senior Brittany DeCapio scored the match's only goal just 1 minute into overtime and defending champion Brooke held on for a slim 1-0 victory against the feisty Cadets.

The victory moves coach Lee Weppler's

See, Brooke, Page B2

Bruins (11-2-3) into Monday afternoon's Cup final at 5:30 p.m. back at the island facility against Weir.

Overall, Brooke managed three shots on goal, with the final one providing the game-winner, while Linsly never got the opportunity to test Bruins sophomore keeper Jessica Kennedy.

Weppler's squad dominated play, especially in the first half, where it spent the majority of the initial 40 minutes deep in Cadets territory. Still, Coach Erica Hall's team put the clamps on every time the designated hosts got into the box.

The first shot came from Brooke junior Maci Hascak 32 minutes into the match. It was the only attempt for either team in the first half.

Hall's squad did suffer a bad break in the first half when junior Alex Frawley went down with an injury and did not return.

"Alex Frawley's injury was a major blow to us in the first half, and a lot of teams would have lost focus to lose a player like her, but we didn't," said Hall, a former soccer star at Brooke. "I am sure Brooke

had some smiles on their faces when she went down, because she means so much to us, but we fought to the end and it all came down to one shot."

Linsly's first real opportunity came with 12 minutes to play in regulation when junior Whitney Thompson drove into the box and appeared to have a shot, only to have it blocked.

Three minutes later, Brooke had a similar attempt, with Decapio also having a shot deflected away. A final Bruins flurry came in the 76th minute following a Justyne Obeldobel direct kick from 38 yards away. Again, the Cadets (11-7) held tough and did not budge.

"We dominated play, but I felt their sweeper and stopper really stepped up big for them and limited our opportunities," Weppler said. "Linsly really played a strong match out back, and we couldn't find any chances to finish."

"I think our defense played very well also, as it has all year. We have given up less than 10 goals on the season and we showed why

(Saturday).

"In the end, Brittany Decapio got the big goal when we needed someone to step up and it got us the win. But I still have to give so much credit to Linsly's defense."

Hall, meanwhile, was disappointed with the outcome, but not with her team's effort.

"I could not ask for anything more than what our defense did out there," Hall said. "I have three girls who were just fantastic who will all be back next year for us in freshman Brett Nanners, sophomore Halyn Archer and junior Anna Giesmann. They are the defending Cup champions with one of the best players in the OVAC in Brittany Decapio and Nanners never blinked an eye in defending her."

"Brett certainly did not play like a freshman and I can assure you that anyone that watched her play and didn't know she was a freshman wouldn't believe that she is."

Girls' OVAC Cup Semifinals
(at Wheeling Island Stadium)
Brooke 1, Linsly 0, OT
L — Goalkeepers: Zavatsky (1 save), Lee (1 save).
B — Goal: Decapio. Assist: Wilcox. Goalkeeper: Kennedy (0 saves).

PATRIOTS

Continued from page B1

One of the biggest keys for the Patriots on Saturday was their aggressiveness in the box, which led eight to first-half corner kicks and 12 overall.

While the initial five tries all failed, Wheeling Park finally found the net on its sixth corner kick of the first half to take the lead. Junior AJ Railing's perfectly placed boot was headed into net by leaping sophomore Errin Baynes midway through the half.

Coach Lou Vargo's Knights (7-6-2) only had three corner kicks on the day, but they managed to knot the count with one of them. Senior captain Michael Felton's header from fellow captain Jacob Hilton carromed off the side post and into the net to make it 1-1 with 17:30 to play.

That would set the stage for the high-scoring Henderson, who was tripped in the box on his way to the net. Henderson simply drilled a blast right into the center of the net past a diving Devin Eiler for a 2-1 lead at 15 minutes.

Wheeling Central's final chance came with 9 minutes to play and the Maroon Knights attacking the Park net, but senior keeper Ian Anderson knocked away two shots on goal to preserve the victory.

"We always stress to be very aggressive in the box and we were doing a good job of it (Saturday)," Julian said. "We weren't able to execute a score, but we got the corner kick and the penalty kick for the win."

"Ian (Anderson) has done such a good job for us in net all season long. He is a senior who is starting for the first time this year and he has made a lot of those type of

saves. I am very proud of how he played and I thank God that he was in net to save those shots late."

"We played very well as a team, moving the ball around and taking good shots." Anderson finished with seven saves.

Vargo, meanwhile, was very complimentary of the Patriots while also being proud of his Maroon Knights.

"Wheeling Park has a great soccer program and I am very proud that our kids were able to go toe-to-toe with them for 80 minutes," he said. "A penalty kick late in the game is a tough, heartbreaking way to lose, but it happens."

"But we played our hearts out and did a great job against a great team. Our emotions were high when we tied the match, and even after they took the lead back we did not let it get us down and we continued to play hard. We just couldn't get the ball into net to tie it again."

Monday's championship game will be a rematch from earlier this season when the Patriots picked up a 3-1 victory against Steubenville.

"They are a very aggressive, well coached team and we will have to be prepared and play our best game against them," Julian said. "We just need to do what we do. Stay aggressive in the box, try to make things happen and go out and try to win a championship."

OVAC Cup Semifinal
(at Wheeling Island Stadium)
Wheeling Park 2, Wheeling Central 1
WC — Goal: Felton. Assist: Hilton. Goalkeeper: Eiler (8 saves). WP — Goals: Baynes, Henderson. Assist: Railing. Goalkeeper: Anderson (7 saves).

Sunday News-Register

OCTOBER 4, 2009



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Josh Henderson controls the ball Saturday. View additional photos at cu.news-register.net