

Linsly Wins First Girls' Crown

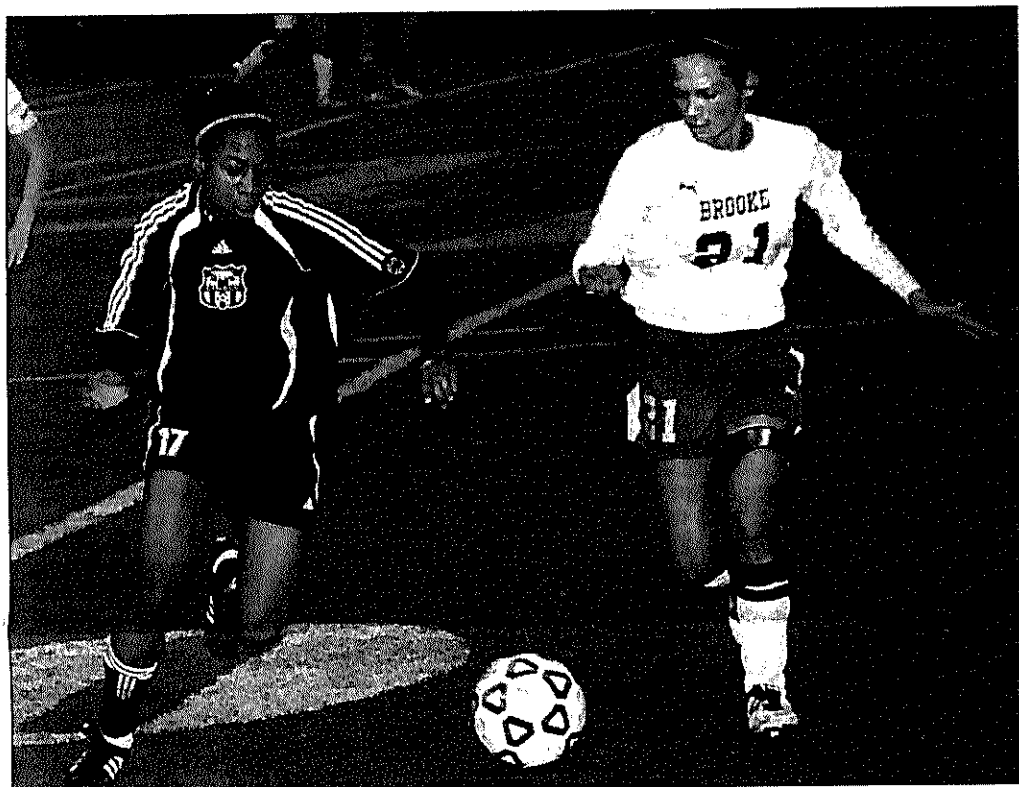


Photo by Josh Strope

Linsly's Leona Nwachukwu (17) and Brooke's Shawn Stewart eye the ball during Monday night's OVAC Cup title match at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Leona Nwachukwu nets the only goal of match

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Linsly coach Erica Hall knew "it was just a matter of time."

During Monday's OVAC Cup Tournament final at Wheeling Island Stadium, Linsly dominated Brooke from the outset but couldn't find that golden goal.

Finally it came, and it was more than enough.

Leona Nwachukwu scored in the 63rd minute to give Linsly the school's first OVAC Cup championship, and in the process marking the first time a school other than Brooke or Wheeling Park has raised the conference trophy.

"We have had so much support, it's been a little bit overwhelming," Hall said. "People called us all day wishing us good luck. We had a lot to work for. This is the first group of girls to win the Cup and that is awesome."

Brooke was the two-time defending champion and the No. 1 overall seed heading into the tournament. The Bruins looked far from it.

Brooke didn't register a shot on goal and Linsly goalkeeper Morgan Lee barely had her hands on the ball in any capacity. The second

half was played almost entirely on the Bruins' side of the field.

Brooke goalkeeper Jessica Kennedy saved six shots, but the one that she didn't was the difference.

A Linsly defender sent a long pass back into the offensive area. The ball bounced over the head of Linsly's Aliya Kureishy and straight to Nwachukwu at the front of the penalty box.

The Cadets junior pushed the ball to the inside of a Brooke defender and caught up to it, sneaking it past Kennedy to the far corner to give Linsly the only goal it needed.

"The girls kept pressuring and we knew it was going to go in at some time," Hall said. "At halftime, we stressed defense. This whole season we've scored 62 goals and only let in 13. They wanted a shutout and this is the ninth or 10th."

"Brett (Nanners) in the back playing sweeper, we have Maleha Kureishy, a freshman, as our stopper and Halyn Archer and Anna Giesmann on the other side. They've had an awesome season."

Brooke tried everything it could and came out with a physical style of play. Unfortunately for the Bruins, they had trouble possessing the ball and couldn't do much with it when they had it.

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Photo by Josh Strope

Wheeling Park's Michael Mauck (3) keeps the ball inbounds during Monday's match.

Patriots Blank Big Red

Wheeling Park wins third straight title

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Wheeling Park is making this look easy.

The Patriots claimed their third straight OVAC Cup Tournament championship and did it in convincing fashion, drubbing Steubenville, 6-0, in the finals Monday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

After a scare in the semifinals against Weir last Saturday, Wheeling Park coach Mario Julian challenged his team to play a full 80 minutes.

When this team plays a full 80 minutes, it's easy to see why they are the best team in the OVAC and one of the favorites to win the West Virginia Class AAA state championship.

"We needed to have that mindset," Julian said. "We played Steubenville early in the season and had to score in the last 4 minutes just to win that game. We felt like we left a little bit on the field."

"(Monday) we didn't want to leave anything. It's 80 minutes, leave what you have on the field for 80 minutes, and good things

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"Their center midfielders play a strong game and they support one another," Brooke coach Lee Wepler said. "They were holding the play in and checking play in. It's hard to get possession when they are running through balls at a 100 percent."

"They are big team with a couple big, strong girls, and if you let them, they will take advantage of that. A couple periods of time we had trouble possessing the ball and getting it out of the back, but give Linsly credit for sticking to their game plan and being stronger than us."

While Brooke will get ready for the state tournament, the season finally ends on a positive note for Linsly, a non-WVSSAC member that doesn't participate in the postseason.

Linsly does have three division championships under former coach Jill Regan.

"It was awesome," said Hall, a Brooke graduate and former Bruins coach. "Total excitement and we knew it was going to be a tough game fighting Brooke again. The past two years, they've had it and we wanted to take it away."

"We've been confident all season and there was no doubt. They weren't going home without it."

Tuesday, October 5, 2010

SPORTS

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happen when you work hard for 80 minutes. We got everybody into the game and everybody contributed to this one."

For a soccer program that measures itself in championships, this was another indication of just how good Wheeling Park has been during the years.

Steubenville is a fiesty team, but there was nothing it could do to match the speed of Wheeling Park.

The Patriots grabbed the lead in the 11th minute as a Errin Baynes showed why he was a state high jump champion, leaping above everyone to head the ball behind the Big Red defense.

From there, Josh Henderson put the easy opportunity past Big Red netminder Chris Nehrbas for the 1-0 lead.

Steubenville was forced to play more aggressive and Wheeling Park took advantage of Big Red being out

of their element.

Steubenville had its chances with multiple free kicks and corner kicks, but the only thing that came out of it was the Patriots' Kohlby Jebbia breaking up the field and finding a wide-open A.J. Railing in the middle for the second goal in the 27th minute.

Less than 5 minutes into the second half, Wheeling Park struck again on a similar goal as Henderson lobbed a pass to Mike Mauck. Nehrbas was able to get a piece of it, but not enough as Mauck put the Patriots up 3-0.

"I thought we could play the balls into the corner and attack the goal lines and get some crosses," Julian said. "Our goals were just how we practiced it. We had guys running toward the goal hard and that is how you beat an aggressive goalie like theirs. We had to get him out of his net and out of his comfort zone."

Mauck repaid Henderson a few

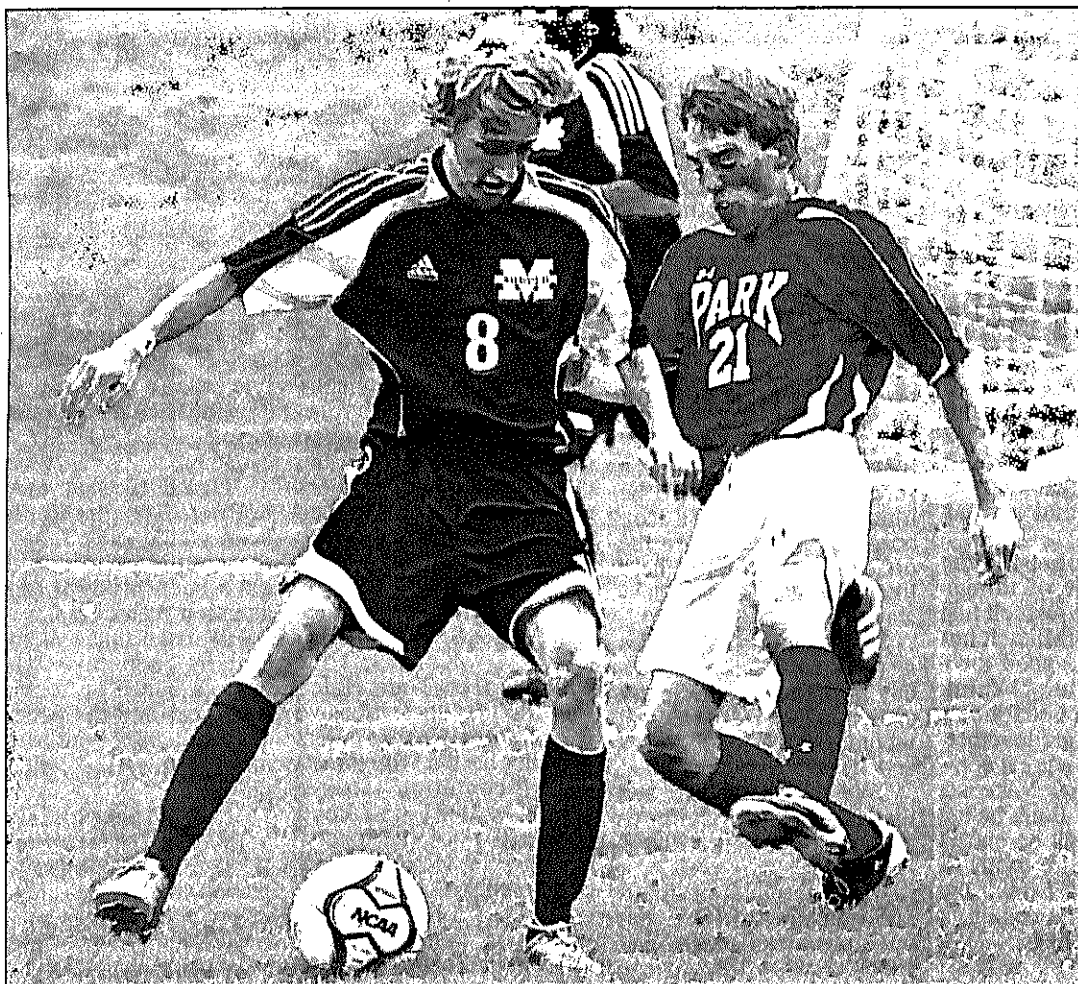
minutes later as he sent a through ball down the middle and the Patriots senior standout finished the breakaway to put the game out of reach.

With the game decided and the benches emptied, Kyle George and Josh Garrett were able to tack on goals.

"They played faster than when we played them earlier in the season," Steubenville coach Greg Bowers said. "They were aggressive and a step ahead of us in everything."

"We got down and we know how tough their defense is, so when we had a chance to score, we knew we had to push the numbers forward. It was a chance we took and it didn't work out in our favor."

The title is the seventh OVAC Cup trophy for the Patriots and third under Julian. Wheeling Park defeated Steubenville in last season's title game, 2-0.



Photos by Josh Strope

Magnolia's Chase Cain (8) and Wheeling Park's Chase Mueller (21) vie for possession during action of their OVAC Cup quarterfinal game Monday at Brooke High School. Wheeling Park won, 9-0. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.



Weir coach Joe Pepe, left, talks to his players Monday night in OVAC Cup action against St. Clairsville.

Weir Takes Care Of St. Clairsville

Red Riders earn triumph in quarters

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

WELLSBURG — After last Thursday's victory against Wheeling Central, Weir coach Joe Pepe let his players know again and again about St. Clairsville.

Last season's OVAC Cup Tournament opened with a thud for the No. 1-seeded Red Riders, who were upset by the Red Devils.

"These kids had a score to settle," Pepe said. "We went back to business."

There was no such upset this time around.

Tyler Salko and George Martich hooked up on three goals as Weir defeated St. Clairsville, 5-1, in the quarterfinals of the OVAC Cup Tournament on Monday at Brooke High School.

The No. 4 Red Riders (13-2-1) face Wheeling Park at 2 p.m. Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We didn't know what kind of St. Clairsville team was going to come in here because we hadn't played them and we hadn't heard too much about them," Pepe said. "We focused on playing our game and we controlled the ball which gave us a lot of opportunities on shots. I'm proud of all the kids."

Weir jumped on St. Clairsville early as Martich crossed the ball to an open Salko for the 1-0 lead in the fourth minute.

In the 29th minute, it was almost a mirror image as Salko snuck the ball past Red Devils goalkeeper Tien Tran for a 2-0 lead.

"It wasn't the way we wanted it turn out," St. Clairsville coach Gary Watt said. "We had trouble possessing the ball and you have to give credit to Weir. They controlled the flow of it and came up with some good shots."

St. Clairsville opened the second half with a little more

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Patriots Pocket Victory Against Blue Eagles

Henderson scores two goals in each half of a 9-0 rout

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

WELLSBURG — Wheeling Park's goal year in and year out is championships. Nothing less.

So being the No. 1 seed and two-time defending OVAC champion is not a big deal. It's a role the Patriots relish.

Magnolia was the first team to learn what it's like to get in the way of that goal.

Wheeling Park dominated play from the opening whistle, taking out the No. 8 seed Blue Eagles in a 9-0 rout in the first game of the OVAC Cup Tournament on Monday held at Brooke High School.

Next is Weir at 2 p.m. Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"(Winning the tournament) is a goal of ours every year," Wheeling Park coach Mario Julian said. "If we don't, it's a big disappointment. We stress a big importance on it and their focus needs to be there. If it's not, we won't win and that's the bottom line."

"Last year was very difficult to defend and we were able to do it without allowing a goal and outscoring our opponents by a significant number. This year, we look at it as we know we have a bunch of seniors, we have a bunch of skill. If the other team is going to beat us, they are going to have to do it on our best game."

Josh Henderson netted four goals for the Patriots, two in each half.

He got the scoring kicked off in the fifth minute on a rebound from a shot by Kohlby Jebbia.

Rob Kondrad made it 2-0 in the 23rd minute and Errin Baynes scored on a header off a throw-

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PATRIOTS

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in from Rocky Diegmiller in the 32nd minute. Henderson added a goal on a penalty kick right before the half to put the game seemingly out of reach for a Magnolia team that barely made it past midfield.

"We hadn't had a game for a week and I let them know in practice how important it was to keep momentum going and keep focus," Julian said. "These guys are experienced with a bunch of upperclassmen. We've had a couple let-downs this year so we don't want that to happen."

After a Mike Mauck goal 51 seconds into the second half, Henderson added two more goals to push the score to 7-0 and end his day early.

Kyle George scored in the 76th minute and Mauck added his second 2 minutes

later.

"It was nice to move the ball around and get everybody involved," Julian said. "We had composure and got a lot of assists on goals and that is what you try to do in these situations."

Dan Knight and Brent Bishop didn't face a shot in combining on the shutout.

It was a rough day for the Blue Eagles and Coach Brian Jones, who never considered his team an underdog.

"I had great expectations," Jones said. "When we play well, we play very, very well. We didn't play well."

"I'd like to congratulate Park for playing for a very good game. They pass the ball very well and they control the ball very well. I wish them all the luck in the world."

WEIR

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intensity and pressured Weir from the beginning. It paid off in the 48th minute as Dallas Young put in a rebound on a save by Weir goalie Josh Barney to cut the deficit in half.

The momentum was short-lived though, as 48 seconds later Salko repaid his teammate, racing down the sideline and finding Martich at the back post to give Weir its two-goal advantage right back.

"It sucked the wind out of our sails and we never recovered," Watt said. "If we could have kept the energy going, who knows what would have happened. But it was easy to tell how much that deflated us."

Matt Kopp scored in

the 59th minute and Chad Hensley scored on a penalty kick in the 61st minute to send Weir to the semifinals.

Weir and Wheeling Park face off in a rematch of a 3-2 Patriots victory earlier this season.

"Park is a strong team and a strong program and we always pride ourselves in how we fare against the Park and the Big Reds and the Brookes," Pepe said. "Is Park tough? Yes. I watched them (Monday) and they are a very good soccer team. We are going to have our work cut out for us."

"But you can't take anything away from these guys here. They are doing one great job for us and they will come out hard."

St. C. set for OVAC Cup

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

The road to the 2010 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Soccer Cup begins Monday when 16 teams — eight each in the boys and girls fields — battle for the right to play for championships on Monday, Oct. 4.

For the second consecutive season, St. Clairsville (6-3-1) is among the boys entrants. The Red Devils are seeded fifth and earned the right to meet fourth-seeded Weir at 7 p.m. on the Brooke High Field.

Monday will also mark the second straight season that the Red Devils and Red Riders have faced off in a first-round bout. Last season saw eighth-seeded St. Clairsville knock off the top-seeded Weir contingent by a 3-2 count in overtime.

"That game has no bearing on this game," St. Clairsville head coach Gary Watt said Friday. "Our team is so different that I don't see it (the win) being a factor."

Entering the season, Watt was looking for a goalkeeper to replace Steven Keating. Enter Tien Tran between the posts and the Red Devils seemingly haven't missed a beat.

"Tien has done a fine job for us," Watt offered. "He

has prepared himself really well and he learns more and more about the game every outing. He has met our hopes."

As far as goal scoring goes, the Red Devils have a number of guys who can put the ball in the net.

"We've got about 7 or 8 guys that can score on a regular basis," Watt added.

He said that the leading scorers have been Luke Morrison, Dallas Young and Matt Yudasz.

"We're excited to be playing in the Cup again," Watt continued. "We're excited about our opportunity and this is just one step towards our goal."

"We're looking forward to playing Weir," he added. "They are one of the must-have wins if you are going to make it anywhere. They are right up there with Wheeling Park, Brooke and Steubenville."

St. Clairsville will be at full strength as senior Zach Winiesdorffer has returned from an ankle injury he suffered a couple of weeks ago.

"Zach took about two weeks off," his coach explained. "He missed three games but returned against Magnolia. He was back in form against Wheeling Central."

Wheeling Park, the No. 1 seed, meets No. 8 Tyler

Consolidated in Monday's first game at Brooke. That winner will meet the St. Clairsville-Weir victor on Saturday at 2 p.m. in the semifinals at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Tuesday's first-round action has No. 2 Steubenville and No. 7 Magnolia battling at 5 p.m. The game will be followed by the matchup between No. 3 Brooke and No. 6 Steubenville Central, which will get under way at approximately 7 p.m. Both contests will be played at Brooke High School.

The championship game is set for 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 4.

ON THE girls side of things, top-seeded Brooke meets No. 8 Wheeling Park at 6 p.m. Wednesday, with No. 4 Edison and No. 5 Weir meeting at p.m.

The other quarterfinals on Thursday include No. 2 Linsly playing No. 7 Steubenville Central at 6 p.m. and No. 3 Parkersburg South meeting No. 6 Oak Glen at approximately 8 p.m.

The semifinals are scheduled for Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium at 10 a.m. and noon. The championship game is Oct. 4 at 5:30 p.m., also on the

Island turf.

St. Clairsville's girls team had the bad luck of inclement weather and an officials scheduling mixup that left them on the outside looking in.

The Red Devils led Steubenville 2-0 a mere 8 minutes into their contest last week before a huge thunderstorm and lightning forced the game to be postponed. Then, two days later, a home game with Brooke was not played when no officials showed up.

Head coach Joe Kubik had tried to get the two contests rescheduled before the Cup cutoff date, but was unable to do so.

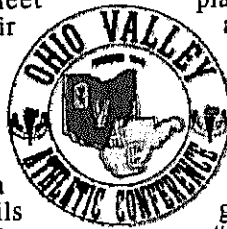
CUP NOTES

■ In the case of a regulation time tie, there shall be two 5-minute overtime periods. There is no "Golden Goal." If a match is still tied at the end of the extra periods, that match shall proceed to a penalty-kick shootout (following WVSSAC rules).

■ No banners or signs will be permitted, except those that can be hand-held.

■ No artificial noise-makers will be allowed in any stadium.

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Linsly Advances To OVAC Semis

Cadets get it done in 2OT

By BRENT SOBLESKI
For The Intelligencer
STEUBENVILLE — In a hard-fought battle of the No. 2 seed vs. the No. 7 seed in the first round of the OVAC Cup, the Linsly girls persisted in defeating Catholic Central, 3-1, in overtime Thursday at Harding Stadium.

It was a tremendous improvement by the Crusaders after the Cadets handedly defeated Catholic Central nearly a month ago. "It was awesome," Linsly coach Erica Hall said. "We played

Steubenville Central early in the season and we beat them, 5-2. When we left the field that day I said, 'I will be nervous playing them again.' They are a good team, and they have some good players."

Each team waited for the other to make an early mistake. Neither did and despite multiple quality scoring opportunities for Linsly, the game was tied, 0-0, at intermission.

"We switched up our entire formation," Catholic Central coach Chris Ledyard explained. "We went with a 4-3-2, then we dropped into a diamond

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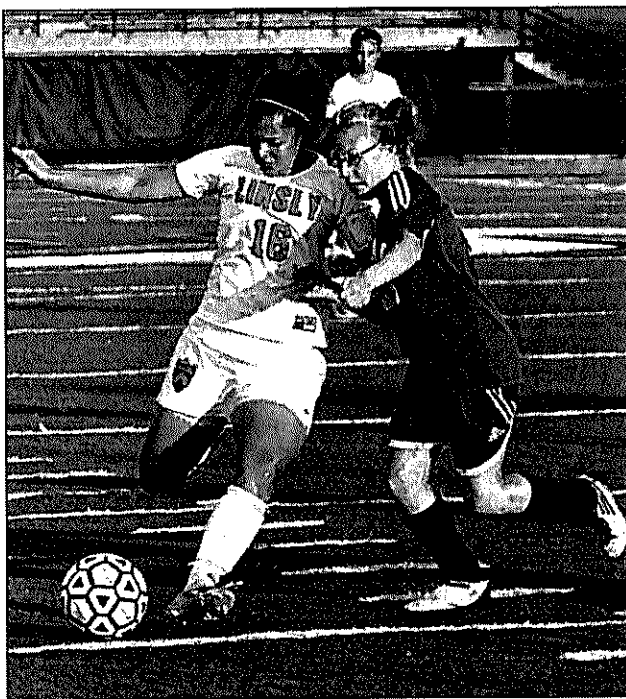


Photo by Brent Sobleski

Linsly's Sydney Huff (16) looks to move the ball up the field past Steubenville Catholic's Kristen Looman.

Patriots Bounce Golden Bears

South will take on Linsly next

By AARON PETCHAL
For The Intelligencer
STEUBENVILLE — Brittany Loveland has done a good job this season of putting the ball into the back of the net.

Thursday night, Loveland excelled at preventing the ball from going into the back of the net. Loveland, who finished with 10 saves, made several key stops to keep the Oak Glen girls' soccer team in its OVAC Cup Tournament game against Parkersburg South at Harding Stadium. Nevertheless, the Patri-

ots were finally able to break through with a goal with a little more than 2 minutes to go in the first half, and Parkersburg South tallied an insurance goal off of a rebound with less than 6 minutes to play as the Patriots held on to knock off the Golden Bears (7-6-1) by a 2-0 count.

Oak Glen coach Jennifer Loveland said her team played a strong game defensively.

"We just couldn't get one into the goal," she said. "The girls played a tough game. I am disappointed in the outcome, but I'm not disappointed in my girls."

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defense. They are too skilled and we could not keep up with them in a flat four. So we dropped Katrina Vosteen into sweeper position and slowed the game down. Then we told the midfielders, 'You have to cover back all day.' Then it was just a matter of could we create an opportunity? Could they create an opportunity?"

The Cadets' Whitney Thompson lit up the scoreboard nearly 8 minutes in the second half. Linsly kept up the pressure, ringing the crossbar once off the boot of Aliya Kureishy. A trip in the box resulted in a penalty kick which Kureishy also attempted. Catholic Central keeper Mariah Vosteen came up large knocking down the kick targeted for the top center of the goal.

"If you look at all the shots we placed on goal, we were high, wide, to the keeper, wherever." Hall

said. "We had a lot of opportunities on goal. That was getting us a little frustrated when we weren't hitting the net."

Catholic Central's persistence paid off tying the game by a header Margaret Beigel redirected off a beautiful long setup kick.

Despite the hard work and hustle by both squads, regulation ended in a 1-1 tie. The winner would finally emerge in the second period of overtime.

Linsly increased the pressure on Catholic Central's defense. This time the Crusaders could not hold strong, surrendering two goals. Kureishy ripped a shot into the diving Crusaders keeper. A rebound came loose and Leona Nwachukwu tipped a kick over the sprawled Vosteen to separate the Cadets from their opponent, 2-1. Kureisy would add an insurance goal at the 2:34 mark of the final overtime to finalize the score, 3-1.

BEARS

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"They played their hearts out. They gave everything they had to give this evening. I'm a very, very proud of them. They did an excellent job."

With the victory, Parkersburg South (10-2-3) will play in the semifinals at noon Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium against Linsly.

The Patriots, who are ranked No. 6 in Class AAA, and the Cadets played to a scoreless draw earlier in the season.

"It was an exciting game," Parkersburg South

coach Rick Bush said. "It was well played. Both teams went at it real hard."

"This tournament, this is new to us at Parkersburg South to be in the tournament, but we were told that there was an electricity about (it). Teams stepped up and played harder, and obviously in the first game, Catholic Central gave Linsly a huge game and then Oak Glen came out and ran up and down the field with us the whole game."

Junior forward Kari Simon scored both goals for the Patriots.

Familiar Faces Emerge As Cup Finals are Set

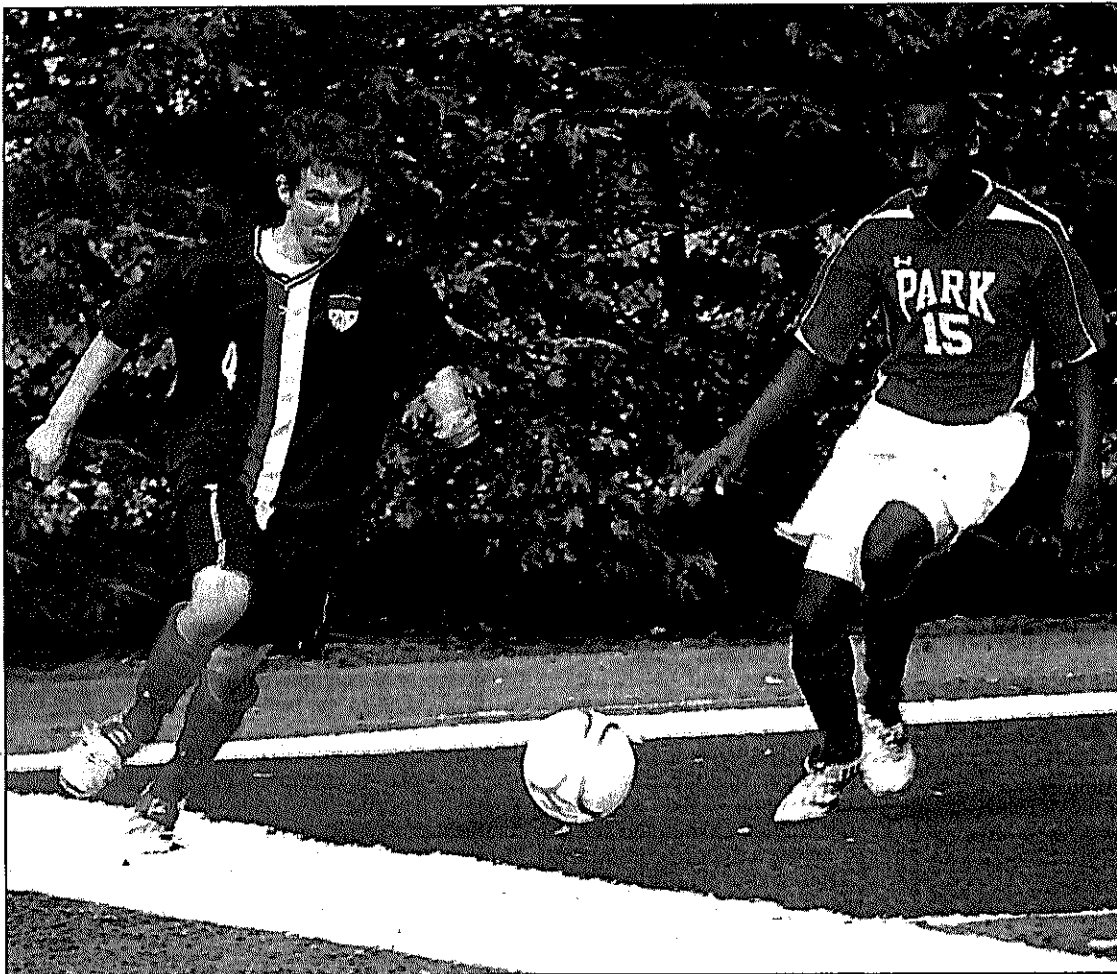


Photo by Josh Strobe
Weir's Ryan Duke (4) dribbles around Wheeling Park's Errin Baynes (15) before scoring a goal during action of their OVAC Cup Tournament semifinal game Saturday at Wheeling Island.

Park overcomes adversity, nips Weir, 3-2

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

WHEELING — One instant Wheeling Park found itself in sheer panic mode. The next, the talent and confidence that makes the Patriots who they are shined through in a 90-second span.

In what was one of its toughest tests of the season, Wheeling Park rallied to beat Weir, 3-2, in the OVAC Cup Tournament semifinals on Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

The Patriots will face Steubenville in a rematch of last season's final in which Wheeling

Park won, 2-0.

George Martich put Weir ahead, 2-1, with 49 seconds remaining in the first half, stunning the Patriots with a deflection that sneaked past netminder Dan Knight.

But that wasn't the worst thing that happened to Wheeling Park as the clock ticked toward halftime.

Seventeen seconds later, with the Patriots deep in Weir territory, Wheeling Park senior stand-out Josh Henderson was sent to the bench for the remainder of the contest with his second yellow

card of the game.

"They were concerned and scared," Wheeling Park coach Mario Julian said. "They played like they were afraid in the second half. Not afraid of the opponent but of the situation and it took a while for us to build that confidence up like we could win it."

"That is how important Josh is to the team."

Wheeling Park exited the locker room for the second half with a look of despair and for the first

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OVAC CUP SEMIFINALS

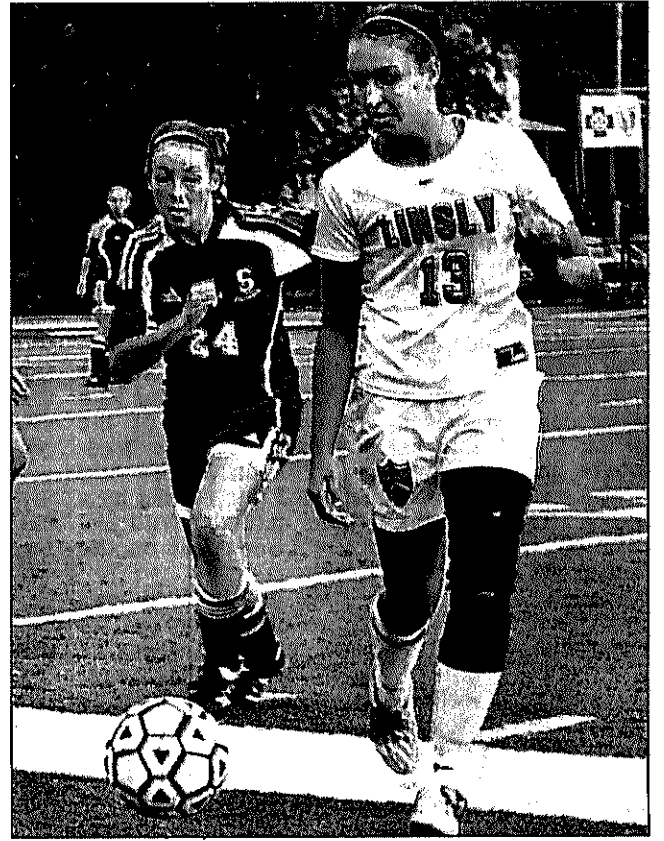


Photo by Josh Strobe
Linsly's Alex Frawley (13) and Parkersburg South's Andrea Williams (24) vie for the ball during action of their game Saturday.

Linsly Girls Eye One More Shot

Hall's club takes
out Pkb. South

By TRACY WATSON
For The News-Register
WHEELING — Linsly's girls soccer team has many weapons and many ways to beat an opponent.

Still, the Cadets are an admittedly better team with the services of senior Alex Frawley in the lineup.

Frawley was unavailable to play because of injury in a scoreless tie against West Virginia power Parkersburg South earlier this season at Holloway Field.

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"Brooke has had that championship for two years and they don't want to give it up, but we want to take it from them."

Erica Hall, Linsly Coach

Brooke Girls Aim For a Three-Peat

Weppler's club ousts Weir

By TRACY WATSON
For The News-Register

WHEELING — Winning a championship is always a tough accomplishment, but people will tell you that defending a title is even a bigger challenge.

Monday night, the Brooke girls' soccer team will have the opportunity to take that even one step further when Coach Lee Weppler's Bruins go after a third straight OVAC Cup banner at Wheeling Island Stadium.

That scenario all came about following an outstanding defensive performance, a whole lot of speed from senior standout Maci Hascak, and a hard-fought 2-1 victory against Weir High in a semifinal contest Saturday morning on the island turf.

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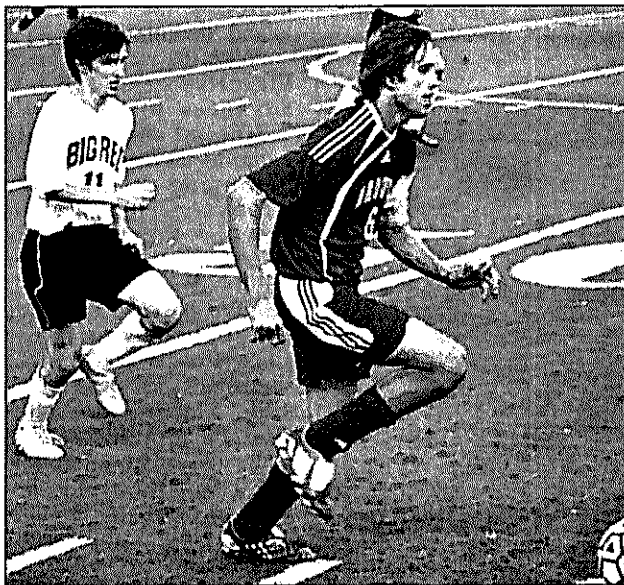


Photo by Josh Strobe
Brooke's Nick Cozad (6) dribbles the ball upfield as Steubenville's Ray Humienny (11) gives chase.

Big Red Boys Seek First OVAC Crown

Wheeling Park stands in the way

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

WHEELING — If there is one thing Steubenville is good at, it's playing with the lead.

Arguably the top defensive team in the valley, Big Red showed just how hard it is to draw even as Steubenville shut out Brooke in the second half in a 2-1 victory of the OVAC Cup Tournament semifinals on Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

The victory puts Steubenville in the title game for the second season in a row and three of the last four. It has yet to win the school's first OVAC title.

"We just have to play within ourselves," Steubenville coach Greg Bowers said. "We have to have the thought that we can win that game."

See, Big Red, Page B2

St. C. ousted from OVAC Cup tourney

By JOSH STROPE
For The Times Leader

WELLSBURG — After Thursday's victory against Wheeling Central, Weir coach Joe Pepe let his players know again and again about St. Clairsville.

Last season's OVAC Cup Tournament opened with a thud for the No. 1-seeded Red Riders, who were upset by the Red Devils.

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up on three goals as Weir defeated St. Clairsville, 5-1, in the quarterfinals of the OVAC Cup Tournament on Monday at Brooke High School.

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lot of opportunities on shots. I'm proud of all the kids."

Weir jumped on St. Clairsville early as Martich crossed the ball to an open Salko for the 1-0 lead in the fourth minute.

In the 29th minute, it was almost a mirror image as Salko snuck the ball past Red Devils goalkeeper Tien Tran for a 2-0 lead.

"It wasn't the way we wanted it turn out," St. Clairsville coach Gary Watt said. "We had trouble possessing the ball and you have to give credit to Weir. They were good."

St. Clairsville opened the second half with a little more intensity and pressured Weir from the beginning. It paid off in the 48th minute as Dallas Young put in a rebound on a save by Weir goalie Josh Barney to cut the deficit in half.

The momentum was short-lived though, as 48 seconds later Salko repaid his teammate, racing down the sideline and finding Martich at the back post to give Weir its two-goal advantage right back.

"It sucked the wind out of our sails and we never recovered," Watt said. "If we

BIG RED

Continued from page B1

"We tied Park early in the season and had the lead until the final 4 minutes. Hopefully that will give us the confidence we need Monday."

Bowers was concerned with the speed of Brooke and quickly made a move by putting defender Hunter Naylor into the midfield as a way to try and slow down the pace.

Brooke attacked right away and was able to score 5 minutes in as Austin Isinghood scored past Steubenville goalkeeper Chris Nehrbas for the 1-0 lead.

"We played an excellent first half and we moved Hunter Naylor in the middle to counteract the speed of their two center mids," Bowers said. "The tempo of the game switched to our favor after that. We felt going in that we might have to and it was pretty evident that their speed was going to be a problem."

The Bruins held that lead

until the 29th minute when Michael Rawson scored on a direct kick from 40 yards out, sneaking the ball just off the fingertips of Brooke netminder Robbie Bottorf.

With time ticking down in the first half, Xavier McAllister took a free kick from the corner of the penalty box that was headed by John Macre and deflected into the net by a Bruins defender with just 6.2 seconds left on the clock.

"We got the early goal like we planned because we knew they were strong on defense and we didn't want to get behind," Brooke coach John Zumpetta said. "We kind of sat back after that and they started attacking us."

(Naylor) came up and started controlling us. Their goalie also does a great job of organizing the defense. They are very hard to try and come back on."

Brooke had its chances in the second half as Sean Geary found himself on a breakaway but his shot just

missed wide. He had another chance later in the half but his shot was blocked by Big Red's Eric Tibbs.

The Bruins also had two chances on corner kicks with less than a minute remaining but each time their shots were knocked away by Big Red defenders.

"We had some opportunities in the second half, but we just couldn't capitalize," Zumpetta said. "They worked hard and did exactly what we asked him to do. We just got ourselves down in the first half."

For Steubenville, the next order of business is 5:30 p.m. Monday at Wheeling Island Stadium and the two-time defending champion Wheeling Park Patriots.

"Park is the champion until someone dethrones them," Bowers said. "They have been the champion for a long time. They are fast and they are skilled and we are going to have to play a really solid soccer game."

PARK

Continued from page B1

20 minutes of the second half, it appeared Weir had the game under control.

In the 63rd minute, Errin Baynes lit a spark under the Patriots as A.J. Railing's corner kick made it through the penalty box to Baynes at the back post. The junior one-timed it past Weir goalie Josh Barney for the equalizer.

With Weir stunned and Wheeling Park with new life, the Patriots scored again 90 seconds later as the Park scored on a 2-on-1 with Kohlby Jebbia perfectly setting up Mike Mauck.

"They felt if they could get that tying goal, it would give us the momentum to go forward and that is exactly what happened," Julian said. "Our best players rise up to the challenge. Errin Baynes scored a beautiful

goal. On the second one, Kohlby beat the guy down the line just like we practiced and sent a perfect cross and Mike Mauck had an uncontested slam dunk.

"The depth of our team really came through."

From there, it was all Wheeling Park. The Red Riders never threatened with the tying goal as the Patriots ran out the clock and earned their third straight trip to conference title game.

"We had them and we made a couple mistakes," Weir coach Joe Pepe said. "You can't take nothing away from these kids. To have a powerful, Triple-A team like Wheeling Park held down for a while, you can't take nothing away from Weir High."

"We made some mental mistakes and Park's goals

came right up the middle. These are just kids and they are resilient. They will be back and Weir soccer is here to stay."

Weir struck first in the fourth minute as Ryan Duke fended off Baynes and was able to get a shot off and into the far corner.

Wheeling Park bounced back in the seventh minute as Henderson notched his 26th goal of the season on a breakaway, going around a charging Barney and into the empty net.

"Steubenville is very talented and match up very well with us," Julian said. "These are guys that have been there before and they are going to give us their hardest effort."

Kickoff is 5:30 p.m. Monday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

BROOKE

Continued from page B1

Brooke will take an 11-2-2 record into Monday night's championship game where it will battle Linsly (13-1-3), which edged Parkersburg South by a 3-2 margin in Saturday's other semifinal.

"We are looking for three in a row," Wepler said. "It is definitely hard to defend titles; it feels like everyone is against you and wants to take you down. But we play with an awful lot of heart and we just needed to stay focused and take care of business."

The turning point of Saturday's semifinal came late in the first half and favored the Bruins.

It looked like the Red Riders had broken a scoreless tie with 12:58 to play in the opening half when Morgan Cassels knocked in a rebound that Brooke keeper Jessica Kennedy had originally batted away.

However, after the officials huddled it was ruled the ball had hit the football goal post after coming off of Kennedy's hands and was disallowed.

Hascak, Brooke's lightning quick senior midfielder, had better luck with 6:53 to go in the half when she collected a loose ball that hit off a Weir player following a Kennedy kick and outraced the defense deep into the box.

Hascak then slipped a shot past Riders' keeper Taylor Gianangeli for a 1-0 upper hand on the helper from Kennedy.

"That was definitely a huge turn of events," Wepler said. "It is the little things in soccer that happen that can give or take so much momentum for teams."

"I really think that whole thing opened our eyes a little bit and we stepped up and took charge after that. Maci made a great individual effort on that, with an amazing finish."

Weir coach Jessica Yarter could not have agreed more with her counterpart.

"Very, very much so," she said. "We were on a real high for a couple of seconds and it just all changed so quickly. I felt like we were ready to score and that really took the momentum away from us."

Hascak may not have received credit

for the Bruins' second goal, but it came as a direct result of her speed once again. After beating the defense into the box again, it was ruled she was tripped and Brooke was awarded a penalty kick.

Senior Kara Mezan did the rest when she beat Gianangeli to the keeper's right and put the ball into the back of the net for an insurance score and 2-0 lead.

Weir turned it back into a game midway through the second half when Mel Maragos' lunar shot from nearly 30 yards out sailed high over Kennedy's head and into net to cut the deficit in half at 2-1 with 18:18 to play. Nikki Robinson assisted on the score.

The Red Riders had a late chance with Maragos sending a corner kick into play with 40 seconds to go, but the Bruins defense hung tough and did not let down.

"I think we were a little flat coming out in the second half and you can't lose focus against a rival like Weir," Wepler said. "They scored a goal on a great shot that there was just no way to defend and they just kept coming at us."

"Maci played a great game for us and was in on both goals. She is just so fast and her speed is very deceptive. She scored the first goal and then made a big play to set up the PK (penalty kick) on the second."

Yarter, meanwhile, could not have been proud of her record team, which saw its record fall to 8-4-1.

"That was a great game with both teams playing awesome," she said. "We got behind, but we never gave up and I am just so proud of my girls."

"Maci (Hascak) got their first goal, but we slowed her down and didn't allow her another after that and that was our main goal. You never know what kind of game you are going to have to play against a good team like Brooke."

"We knew we couldn't dig ourselves a hole, but it made it tough on us when they got that second goal. I felt like we played most of the game on our side of the field until it got down to the final couple of minutes."

LINSLY

Continued from page B1

That was not the case Saturday afternoon.

The Cadets overcame a second-half deficit and Frawley scored two goals and assisted on a third as Linsly picked up a 3-2 victory against the Patriots in an OVAC Cup semifinal matchup at Wheeling Island Stadium.

With the victory, Coach Erica Hall's club (13-1-3) advances to Monday's 7:30 p.m. championship game to take on two-time defending champion Brooke. The Bruins downed the Cadets in overtime in last season's semifinals.

"We have been talking about this opportunity since Brooke beat us in the semifinals last year," Hall said. "Alex was hurt in the first 10 minutes of that game and we ended up losing 1-0 in overtime, but we will be at full strength Monday night and we are looking forward to that."

"Brooke has had that championship for two years and they don't want to give it up, but we want to take it from them."

After being outshot, and outplayed, for the initial 27 minutes Saturday, it was Frawley who changed things early on when she took a loose ball in the box and slid around a defender to kick it on an assist from Aliya Kureishy.

Frawley's effort beat

But while neither team put up a goal in the first meeting, both wound up scoring in the first half Saturday.

South finally broke into the scoring column with 2:14 showing in the half when Cadets' keeper Morgan Lee made a nice save on a Kirsten Jones shot, only to have the rebound collected by senior midfielder Katie Braun and tapped into net for a 1-1 tie that held up into half-time.

It was the Patriots who gained control just 3 minutes into the second half when junior Andrea Williams found the back of the net at 37:08 on an assist from Mary Lewis for a 2-1 advantage.

But South's lead did not last long as Frawley and sophomore Anna Giesmann hooked up on a corner kick goal. Giesmann's boot was headed in by a leaping Frawley with 32:41 to play to knot the count back up at 2-2.

"Frawley is bigger than any girl I have on my team so there is not much we could do to stop her from going up high and getting the header," South coach Rick Bush said. "About the only thing we could have done was grab her by the waist and hold her on the ground."

The eventual game-winner came with 17:21 to play when Frawley's long

front of the net where sophomore Gift Chima cleaned it up and slid it past Bro for the 3-2 lead.

South's Lewis had a nice look with 7 minutes to go, but the ball sailed just over the goal and harmlessly away. Lee also made a nice save of a desperation direct kick from 37 yards out with under 50 seconds showing.

"Both coaches knew coming in that this was going to be a real battle to get to the championship," Hall said. "This was a super physical game and we really are not used to playing like that."

"But our leaders stepped it up and we kept our composure. We wanted to take some shots from outside, and Alex had the long one that went off the bar and we were there ready to finish."

"We have played two very exciting games in this tournament and we are hoping for more of the same on Monday. This is what the Cup Tournament is all about."

"Alex (Frawley) and Aliya (Kureishy) are so strong out there together and we have so much more depth when Alex plays. I also can't say enough about Aliya's little sister Maleha who is a freshman, but played like a senior out there (Saturday). She just had an awesome game and wanted to win and wasn't

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Big Red Advances To Semis

Steubenville doubles up Tyler Consolidated

By BRENT SOBLESKI
For The Intelligencer

WELLSBURG — It started off slow enough but ended in a blistering pace in favor of Steubenville.

The Steubenville boys' soccer team controlled play throughout Tuesday at Brooke High School in a 4-2 victory against Tyler Consolidated in an opening-round OVAC Cup Tournament game.

Through the first 18 minutes, only one legitimate scoring opportunity was put on net as Big



Photo by Brent Sobleski

Steubenville's Kyle Gaughan controls the ball during Tuesday's OVAC Cup game with Tyler Consolidated.

Red rocketed a kick off the crossbar. It would be its first, but certainly not its last.

At the 21:18 mark in the first half, Steubenville midfielder Harold Malone buried a slowly rolling ball that had worked its

way past the Silver Knights' keeper. The early advantage lasted 16 minutes.

The Knights received a penalty kick after a Big Red defender was

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One Is Enough As Brooke Moves On

Roberts finds back of net for winner

By FRED YOUNCE
For The Intelligencer

WELLSBURG — Brooke's boys' soccer team stayed on the attack for the entire game Tuesday against Steubenville Catholic in its Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cup first-round match up at Brooke High School.

But, the Bruins had little success finding the back of the net. They only needed a little success, though, as they defeated the Crusaders 1-0.

The first half saw most of the action take place in front of Crusaders goalkeeper

Andrew Duska. Along with the rest of the Central defense, he handled it and turned the aggressive Bruins away time after time.

Duska played an outstanding game saving 17 shots.

"They were on the attack the entire game," Steubenville Catholic coach Steven Kopcha said. "Give Brooke credit for keeping on the pressure but also give credit to our defense keeping it 0-0 in the first half and only allowing one goal under that pressure."

Brooke coach Jon Zumpetta gave Steubenville Catholic credit for playing very well.

"Central played a great

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BIG RED

(Continued from Page 17)

called for a push in the back. Senior Einar Mellem did the honors depositing the ball into the net for a 1-1 score at intermission.

"We just have to finish. We put the pressure on these guys," Steubenville coach Greg Bowers said. "We played most of the first half on our end."

"We just have to put some goals away. Second half, they got the penalty kick which got them moving as they put some pressure on us. We were able to get a couple in the end."

In the second half, it was almost entirely Big Red as they poured on the pressure.

A crossing pass in front of Tyler keeper Skylar Kinnard was redirected by a teammate for an own goal extending the score, 2-1, in favor of Steubenville. The original crossing pass, and subsequent credited goal was awarded to Kyle Gaughan.

Shot after shot rained down on Kinnard from that point on.

Multiple corner kicks ensued due to Big Red pushing the ball up field, continuously possessing the ball throughout the second half. Opportunity after opportunity was either saved, or kicks were laced inches wide.

Steubenville's continued blitzkrieg found its mark again off a header by John

Macre. Kinnard looked to have made the save on the ball, which may have gone over the net or slammed into the crossbar if untouched. Once the ball hit the keeper's gloves, it still possessed the momentum to pop out his grasp and rotate just enough to carry past the goal line. The lead increased to 3-1.

Gaughan struck again, this time with an intentional shot on net. The defender had won multiple positioning battles in front prior to his final scoring opportunity. He used his size to body off a smaller Tyler Consolidated defender, then whipping a kick into the net.

Kinnard faced 28 shot, saving 20. He was aggressive in and out of the net making numerous stops on grand scoring chances. Although he did not save them all, his play was stellar.

Dylan Romine was able to register one final tally for Tyler on a floater off the left wing over the outstretched arms of Big Red's goalkeeper and team leader, Chris Nehrbas.

"Steubenville is super-athletic," Tyler Consolidated coach Scott Wall said. "They are all about 6-feet-5 or taller, at least it seemed that way. They played a great game. They are a great team. I think they are going to have a deep run in the Ohio playoffs."

BROOKE

(Continued from Page 15)

two goals at the very end and that's how you win games. Congratulations to them for getting the win."

Brooke struck first with 28:16 left in the first half when Kara Mezan put in a penalty kick to make the score 1-0.

The rest of the half saw each team take its turns on the attack with both defenses holding strong. That is until 3:34 left in the half when Alicia Kepner would be fouled in the box.

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With one great swing of her leg the Patriots tied the score at 1-1 on the penalty kick.

Kepner would get another penalty kick about one minute later, but would be turned away by a great diving save by Bruins goalkeeper Jessica Kennedy, who ended up with six saves.

The first 20 minutes of the second half would be a back and forth battle with neither team able to gain an advantage.

Slowly, the Patriots seemed to be staying on the attack longer and longer. With 19:29 left in the game, Kepner put in her second goal of the game on a beautiful shot to the bottom right corner to make it 2-1.

Brooke was able to swing the attack late in the game though and with 3:25 left a Kara Mezan free kick found Ashley Wilcox who found the back of the net for to even things at 2-2.

"They did not give up,"

Weppler said. "They kept fighting and scratching and clawing."

The tying goal was not without controversy as some thought there was an uncalled hand ball on the play.

Brooke would not be content with pushing the game into overtime and with 2:30 left in the game Lyndsey Chiodi placed a pass perfectly to the front of the goal where Kirsten Minger would put the ball in for the game winner.

"In the final minutes we really played tough," Wepler said. "We found a way to get the win. We found some things we need to work on. We're going to fix those things."

Despite playing an outstanding game the loss left a bad taste in the mouth of the Patriots.

"The girls are disappointed," said Taylor. "We outplayed them and we had a chance to win."