



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

**WHEELING CENTRAL'S** Maria Dzurma (7) controls the ball against a Madonna player during Saturday morning's OVAC Class 1A/3A girls' soccer championship game at Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville. The Blue Dons won, 1-0, in double overtime.

## Madonna edges Central for OVAC soccer crown, 1-0

By **KIM NORTH**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** — The third time was definitely a charm for the Madonna girls' soccer team.

After being Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 1A/3A runnerups twice, the top-seeded Blue Dons (10-3) broke through Saturday morning as Hayley Timko's 'Golden Goal' early in the second 5-minute overtime secured the championship trophy in a hard-earned, 1-0, triumph over No. 3 Wheeling Central (7-6) on the artificial surface inside Red Devil Stadium.

The two Catholic rivals played on even terms through 80 minutes of regulation play, and went through one 5-minute overtime period scoreless before Timko found the back of the net in the 86th minute.

"I got a pass from Gianna Antinone who kind of slid it through the middle and I was able to dribble it up (the field)," Timko explained of her game-winner. "I kind of placed it to the corner because I saw where the goalkeeper was and put it where she wasn't.

"That was a great feeling. There is no better feeling because I'm a senior," she added. "To win OVACs is a big accomplishment for our team."

The goal came just as she described it. Antinone sent the ball through a pair of Maroon Knights defenders and Timko did the rest. Her shot to the right corner of the net caught Wheeling Central goalkeeper Maria Murphy leaning the other way.

"Hayley's a great player, always has been," Madonna head coach Bob Kolanko advised.

"I saw her lift her head and look at the net. That's patience," he added. "She placed the ball right where she wanted it. Right where (Wheeling Central goalkeeper) Maria (Murphy) couldn't get to it. That was the end of the game."

Madonna advanced to the championship game by blanking fourth-seeded Linsly, which it lost to in last year's finale.

"It feels wonderful," allowed. "These girls have been two times before and left both times with a little bit of heart break. This time we're going back home with a little pride. Holding the (championship) trophy feels really good."

# Weir Boys Earn Back-to-Back Titles



Photo by Josh Strope  
Steubenville's Ian Baird (4) controls the ball as Weir's Michael Gresko moves in during their OVAC Final on Saturday in Wheeling.

## Gresko's Second-Half Header Is a Winner

By JOSH STROPE  
Sports Editor

WHEELING — Sometimes a game can be won by just letting cooler heads prevail.

In a match that was as testy and physical as it was competitive, Weir was able to take advantage of a two-man advantage in earning its second straight OVAC boys' soccer championship, winning the Class 4-A game against Steubenville, 2-1, on Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Tied at 1-1 midway through the second half, emotions got the best of Steubenville's Justice Slappy, who was given a red card and ejected from the game.

That was all Weir coach Jim Luevano needed to dial up the pressure.

"We started out playing a 4-4-2 and we went to a 4-5-1 so we can play a little more of a defense game, but if we happen to possess the ball, then we can get numbers up," Luevano said.

Minutes after Slappy was dismissed, Weir took advantage.

Off a corner kick, Ryan Bodrog sent a perfect pass into the middle

and senior Michael Gresko headed the ball past Steubenville goalie Jacob Clevenger to put the Red Riders (9-2) up 2-1 in the 64th minute.

"It was sweet," Luevano said. "We don't practice (crossing plays) a lot, but we do work on them. When we play Steubenville, it seems like we are always changing something up to try and put something together to work to beat them. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't work as well."

It was a crossing play in the first half that put Weir on the scoreboard just before halftime.

Trailing 1-0 after Steubenville scored in the 16th minute on a goal by Codey Criss, Weir's Luke Tenaglio had the ball deep into Big Red territory when he crossed it into the front of the net where Chayton Luevano was there to head the ball past Clevenger to tie the game.

Steubenville (9-2) found itself in more trouble as Marc Porter was given a red card and sent to the sideline with eight minutes to go. All

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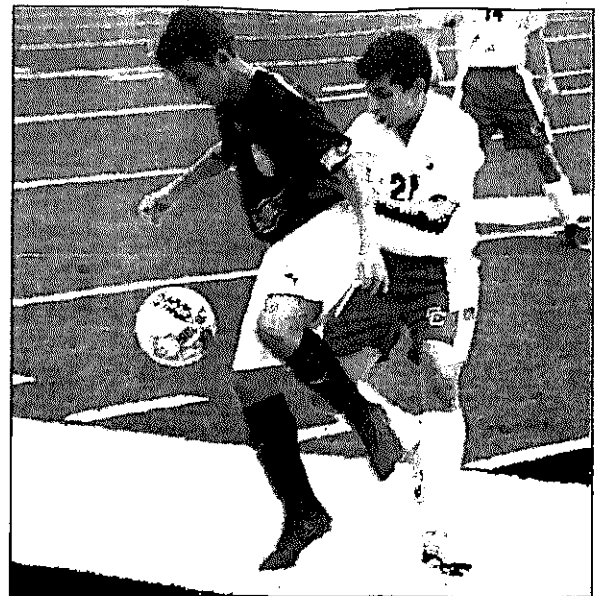


Photo by Josh Strope  
Linsly's Jack Dudlich battles Steubenville Catholic's Juan Miguel Gonzalez on Saturday.

## Crusaders Win Second in a Row

By JOSH STROPE  
Sports Editor  
WHEELING —

Steubenville Catholic boys' soccer coach Steve Kopcha insists winning OVAC championships never gets old.

But the Crusaders are making it look really easy.

Steubenville Catholic scored five times in the second half en route to a 7-1 victory against Linsly in the OVAC Class 1-A/3-A championship Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium. It is the second straight title in the playoff format and sixth division title in the past seven years.

"It is always exciting and we feel very privileged," Kopcha said. "We are very thankful that we were in this position and we were able to come out on top. It is a very good feeling."

"We have a real good group of kids and it is all on the players. They do a tremendous job. They deserve all the credit."

Steubenville Catholic (10-0) entered the second half in front, 2-0, but Linsly had controlled most of the possession.

The final 40 minutes was all Crusaders, though.

Mickey Irvin, who opened the scoring with a goal less than four minutes in, scored twice in the first 10 minutes of the second half to double the Steubenville Catholic lead to 4-0 and seemingly end any good thoughts Linsly (7-7) had about itself coming out of the locker room.

Less than two minutes later, that lead grew to 5-0 as Irvin assisted Tom Beigel.

"I think our bench might have been a little bit of a factor," Kopcha said. "We had a little bit more depth coming off the bench and were able to make a few adjustments at halftime, keying on their key players and we did just did a better job of containing them."

Linsly had its chances in the first half, outshooting the Cadets 5-4 in the first half. Not finishing plays has been a bugaboo for the Cadets this season. It also didn't help that Steubenville Catholic goalie Austin Fowkes was

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on his game.

The senior keeper was there to stop a number of point-blank shots and also made a diving save on Linsly sharpshooter Manuel Suita to keep the Cadets off the scoreboard.

"That was great senior leadership from him," Kopcha said. "Austin is a top-notch goalie. We rely on him very much and he didn't disappoint."

Stuebenville Catholic also got two goals from Dante Asci and added an own goal in the first half. Suita netted the lone goal for the Cadets.

"I thought we played really well and we outplayed them in the first half and the first 15 minutes of the second half. Our problem is we didn't score," Linsly coach Eric Fries said. "They were super efficient scoring. No. 32 (Irvin) was clinical. He had three shots and three goals. It takes the breath out of you quickly. We control the play and they score on a counter attack and you have a lot of effort that is not rewarded."

"We have first-year soccer players who have never played before starting for us. We did a great job of getting to this point. Being here is one thing, though, and capitalizing on it is different. I am tremendously proud of my guys for how they have improved since the start of the season."

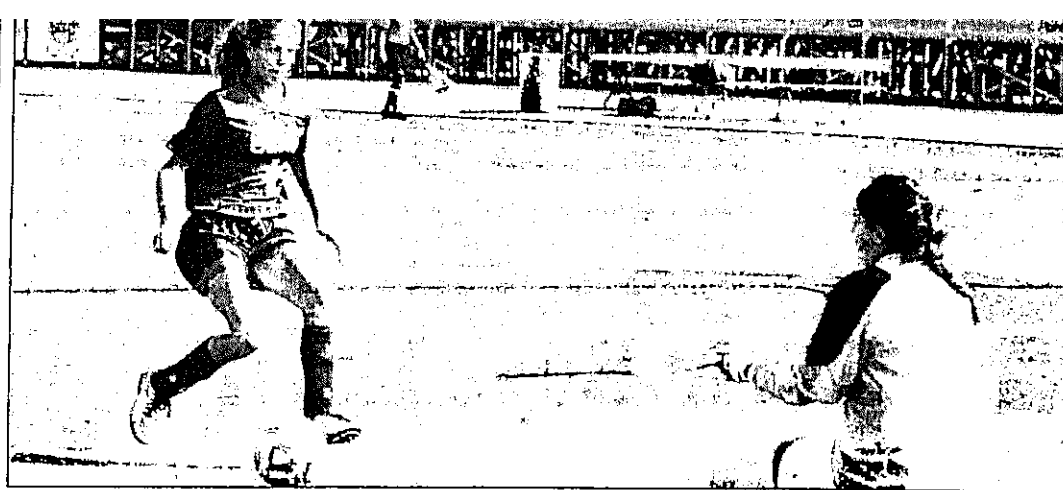


Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Central's Kenadee Wayt (4) eyes the goal as Madonna keeper Kasey Canel looks to make a save Saturday morning during the OVAC girls' 1A/3A championship game.

## Dons Top Central, Win Title

By KIM NORTH

For the News-Register

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because I saw where the goalkeeper was and put it where she wasn't.

"That was a great feeling. There is no better feeling because I'm a senior. To win OVACs is a big accomplishment for our team."

Her shot to the right corner of the net caught Wheeling Central goalkeeper Maria Murphy leaning the other way.

"Hayley's a great player, always has been," Madonna coach Bob Kolanko said. "She's one of the hardest workers we have. I've told her all year to be patient with the ball. Be patient with the ball. You don't have to blast it. It doesn't matter how it gets into the back of the net, as long as it gets there."

"I saw her lift her head and look at the net. That's patience. She placed the ball right where she wanted it. Right where Maria couldn't get to it. That was the end of the game."

Madonna advanced to the championship game by blank-

ing fourth-seeded Linsly, which it lost to in last year's finale.

"It feels wonderful," Kolanko said. "These girls have been here two times before and left both times with a little bit of heartbreak. This time we're going back home with a little pride. Holding the trophy feels really good."

Neither team had more than a handful of scoring opportunities in the tightly contested match. When they did, the goalkeepers were up to the task.

Kasey Canei, the Blue Dons' junior keeper, recorded five saves, but most of them came on golden opportunities for the Maroon Knights.

Murphy was called upon to make seven saves.

Despite the setback, first-year Wheeling Central head coach Cecily Powell couldn't have been any prouder of her team.

"Every single one of them left everything they had on the field," she said. "Nobody on my team quit. They played hard until the very end."

## WEIR

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told, officials handed out six cards in the match — two red, four yellow.

"We told them when they came off that they have to stay calm," Coach Luevano said. "You can't play a dirty game of soccer."

For Steubenville, the top seed in the tournament, it was another playoff disappointment. Despite being one of the most successful teams in the valley with three regular-season division titles, Big Red has yet to win an on-field champi-

onship.

"This is not the result we were hoping for," Steubenville coach Greg Bowers said. "The first 20 minutes, we did what we wanted to. It changed on a few plays."

"We had to keep our heads but we also had to protect ourselves. It is a physical game, sometimes they go your way and sometimes they don't. We had to pull out a couple of defenders to try and get an attack going. We did excellent playing with

eight guys."

Steubenville had its best chance to score with eight minutes to go as Adam DiCarlo's shot was knocked away by Weir goalie Brett Hinchee, but right to Big Red's Joseph Venditti. The junior couldn't capitalize, instead booting the ball over the net.

Weir held on to clinch its third title and second in a row. The Red Riders won the 5A division last season.

"It is nice to win the back-to-backs but we still try to take it

one game at time," Luevano said. "These guys really work hard. These guys knew what they were up against. We practiced hard this week and it paid off."

### Class 5A

**Morgantown 3, University 2**  
Morgantown had goals from Abel Knight, Rediet Knight and Fady Wasef as the Mohigans defeated city rival University for its fourth OVAC title.

Collin Mocyunas scored both goals for the Hawks.

# Red Riders Edge Past Potters in PKs

By AARON PETCHAL  
For The News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The Weir girls' soccer team got its chance to celebrate a tournament championship.

Weir, the No. 4 seed, and East Liverpool, the No. 3 seed, battled for 90 hard-fought minutes — counting 10 in overtime — a winner could be determined in that time, so the game went into a penalty kick shootout to determine the winner.

In the shootout, the Red Riders' last four shooters scored while the Potters were only able to convert on two of their kicks, enabling Weir to defeat East Liverpool, 0-0 (4-2 in the shootout), in the OVAC Class 4-A Tournament Final on Saturday at Red Devil Stadium.

The victory gave the Red Rid-

ers their first OVAC Tournament title.

"It means all of our hard work is paying off," Weir (8-4-3) first-year coach Joe Jimboy said.

East Liverpool held at 1-0 advantage in the shootout after the first two kickers, but the Potters were only able to score one more time while Weir did not miss after failing to convert on its first attempt.

"It is not so hard on me as it is hard on the girls," East Liverpool (5-6-1) coach Tim Diddle said. "The girls worked so hard. I could not be prouder of them for anything they have done.

"Last year we played Weir and we lost 10-4. It just shows how far we have come in a year. We have turned things around. It all comes down to dedication. They are all dedicated at prac-

tice. They put their hearts into it."

The Red Riders shot first in the shootout as Taylor Quickle sailed one over the crossbar. The Potters took the lead as Emily Brereton scored.

Next, Paulayna Zias scored for Weir to knot the shootout at 1-1. The score remained 1-1 as East Liverpool's Lexi Danley had her shot saved by Weir goalie Lexey Brenneman.

Julia Gianni scored to give her team a 2-1 lead, but Jaybreona Foster followed with a goal for the Potters to tie the shootout at 2-2 through three shooters.

Francesca Farran buried her shot into the back of the net to give Weir a 3-2 lead. East Liverpool had a chance to tie the score, but Brenneman made a save on the shot by Hannah

Newlin to keep the Red Riders ahead by one.

Finally, Hanna Dragonir stepped to the line with a chance to end the shootout, and she did just that.

"The girls have put in so much work and it is nice that they are getting rewarded for that," Jimboy said. "East Liverpool has gotten so much better. They played a great game. They did not quit. Their coaching staff has really done a great job. My hat is off to them."

While Brenneman made two saves in the shootout to help her team win the championship, the best performance of the day was by the goalie on the other end of the field. East Liverpool senior standout Lindsay Baker made big saves after big save throughout to keep her team alive.