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(F1B)

West Bloomfield triumphs, 1-0

North's soccer squad drops key game

By TOM BAER

Coach Diane Smith was reduced to tears by her soccer team's performance against North Farmington last Monday.

"I cried," Smith admitted after watching her West Bloomfield squad stop North Farmington, 1-0, in a crucial game in the Eastern Division of the North Suburban Girls Soccer Association.

"I was so happy," said Smith, a housewife-turned-coach who has guided West Bloomfield to a 5-0-1 record in its inaugural season.

"North Farmington has had a lot of publicity about being the league leader this year," Smith said. "West Bloomfield is a new team and really hasn't gotten the recognition it deserves. After the game, our girls were saying, 'Mom, now we'll get a picture in the paper!'"

Kelly Corby, a sophomore forward, scored the game's only goal early in the first half. After taking a pass from Gaye Stivala, Corby pumped the ball into the upper left-hand corner of the net.

"The ball was passed across the goal mouth by Gaye," Smith said. "Kelly was there and just pushed it through."

Smith praised her defense, especially goals Stacey Mariano, who stopped six North Farmington shots.

"I was very pleased with my defense," she said. "June Morse, Tracy Smith, Marianne Okalo all played outstanding games, as did our goalie."

COACH MIKE Horner's North Farmington squad had not been beaten in six outings before last Monday's game. "It was just a fun soccer game to watch," Horner said. "It was a well-played game with lots of good passing and good defense."

"I just wish we could have been the team to score the goal."

North goalie Janice Higuera faced nine West Bloomfield shots.

North Farmington and West Bloomfield, now tied for the Eastern Division lead, will have a rematch on May 28 at (Continued on Page 2B)