

SOCCER

Bulldogs drop Spartans

BY GREG MIGLIORE

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Livonia Stevenson's soccer team had its Division I state semifinal game against Brighton moved up a day because of a conflict with commencement ceremonies.

But it was the Bulldogs who got early graduation presents as they defeated the Spartans, 2-1, in double overtime Tuesday at Okemos High School.

Senior Andrea Tyler, the Bulldogs' leading scorer, got the game-winner with a shot into the far side of the net from 36 yards out with 7:38 left in the second overtime.

"It means a ton," said Tyler, who was visibly excited. "It felt good. I couldn't breathe."

"I think our girls played well," Stevenson coach Chris Pinta said. "I was proud of them. Very few expected us to get this far."

Stevenson (15-6-1) was without forward Melissa Dobbey for the second overtime because of an ankle injury. She scored the first goal of the game 2:26 into the contest.

"She's very skilled and confident with her shot," said Brighton coach Deepak Shivraman, who said he made adjustments at half-time to try to open up passing lanes. "In the first half, things were a little scrappy and we're not a scrappy team. We feel we have one of the best midfields in the state."

The Bulldogs tied the game at 28:04 of the second period on a low shot from the right side by Jessie Jandasek.

"They put us under a lot more pressure," Pinta said. "They've got a lot of good skilled players."

Both teams had scoring chances in the first overtime. Dobbey hooked a shot just over the net in the first minute.

In the last minute, Brighton's Katelin Spencer had a high shot tipped just barely over the net.

"We had some opportunities in overtime and in the game," Pinta said.

The Spartans, who won their regional and the Western Lakes Activities Association, gained confidence as they advanced in the post-season.

"I knew the team had the potential all season long," Pinta said. "My defense has played solid all year."

The Bulldogs have made the semifinal game three times.

"We said 'No fear,' we've been here before and we're used to it," Shivraman said. "So they were pretty calm. They had a lot of confidence."



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JAWORSKI
Heads up play: Stevenson's Lia Williamson (right) and Brighton's Jessie Jandasek converge on the ball during Tuesday's Division I state semifinal.

Brighton will face Wednesday's semifinal victory, either Saginaw Heritage or Troy, in Saturday's state final at 1:30 p.m. at Plymouth Canton.

Crusaders land All-Observer duo

BY C.J. RISAK

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This should have been a story that, in reality, was just a couple of paragraphs. After all, Madonna University's men's soccer program isn't blessed with an abundance of athletic scholarship funds, and what coach Pete Alexander had was already tied up in the players he has returning.

Which is everyone. "Recruiting without scholarship money," Alexander said, "well, I am very happy with what we ended up with."

Make that overjoyed. Alexander — whose Crusader team butted through an injury-plagued campaign to post a 12-9-1 record, winning the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Tournament and coming within one win of the NAIA Tournament — has commitments from nine players, three of whom could crack the starting lineup.

The Madonna coach didn't have to travel far to pick up two of his top recruits. T.J. Djokic and Jamie Miller both played for Livonia Stevenson, Djokic earning all-Western Lakes Activities Association honors as a standout midfielder and Miller also getting all-WLAA accolades to go with second team all-state honors.

Miller finished with a team-best 10 goals and 11 assists. Djokic had eight goals and 16 assists.

"They were their two best players, especially in leadership," said Alexander.

Another who has the potential to start is Bernie Mesic, who played soccer at Hamtramck last year but for the eight years prior to that learned the sport in Germany.

"He can play anywhere," said Alexander. "I talked to coaches that played against his (Hamtramck) team and they said he was the only guy that kept them in the game. He's a very well-rounded player, and one of our most exciting recruits."

Then there's Shane Smith, a forward from Plymouth Salem who Alexander called "a workhorse. He's got a lot of speed, good size and he's very

quick. I like what Shane gives us."

"T.J., Shane and Bernie are potential starters," said Alexander. "Maybe they won't get it right away, but they'll learn. I'm very position-specific. I call it functional training, making sure they know what they're going to do."

Others Alexander figures will make an impact on his team are midfielder Evann Baker, from Plymouth Canton; midfielder Joe Boumaroun, from Redford Catholic Central; Jeff Luttrell, a Canton resident; Brandon Sullivan, from Dearborn Heights Crestwood; and Garrett Dykes, from Woodhaven.

Indeed, both the number and quality of his recruits even surprised Alexander. "This is one of our best recruiting classes ever," he insisted. "Not just in adding depth, but starters, too."

"We didn't need much. With these guys, we're looking great."

Certainly some are more advanced than others and will contribute earlier, like Djokic, Miller, Smith and Mesic. But Alexander has high hopes for the others as well.

Like Baker. "He's a very, very fast kid," the Madonna coach said. "He doesn't have a lot of skill right now, but he's very fast."

He could say much the same about Sullivan. "He could be great," Alexander noted. "He's got a lot of athletic ability and he's very quick."

And then there's Dykes. "He works his butt off," said Alexander. "He'll be in the midfield somewhere."

But the quality of this recruiting class will be determined by those four guys at the top of Alexander's list. "T.J.'s a unique player," he said. "Some say he's got an attitude, but I love what he brings. He's going to be a standout in this league. He should start in the midfield."

"Miller's a lot like Shane. Both could start at forward for us."

And then there's Mesic. "Bernie will start for us somewhere," Alexander declared.

It all adds up to something very positive, the Madonna coach felt.

Bucks trip Gemini in Great Lakes match

They haven't been perfect, but the Mid-Michigan Bucks are getting closer to it.

On Saturday, they traveled to play the Dayton (Ohio) Gemini, and while they got off to a great start, it appears they left a bit early, too. No matter: The Bucks still got the victory, by a 6-3 margin.

The win keeps them in second place in the United Soccer League's Great Lakes Division

with a 6-1-1 record; the Chicago Fire Reserves are first at 6-0-1. The Gemini remain winless at 0-6-1.

"We got a little sloppy at the end, but overall it was a good effort," said Bucks coach Dario Brosse.

Indeed, the Bucks scored three times in the first half and led 3-0 at the break. They increased that to 5-1 before surrendering two goals in the final five min-

utes — just to make things a bit interesting.

Kyle Veris and Ryan Mack (from Birmingham Soham) provided most of the Bucks' offense, accounting for three goals between them.

Veris opened the scoring just two minutes into the match, taking a pass from Mack and beating the Dayton defense to make it 1-0. At the 10-minute mark, Mack nailed a penalty kick to make it 2-0.

Adam Heinemann (Oakland University) increased the Bucks' lead to 3-0 a minute before half-time, one-timing a pass from Veris.

Veris' second goal, again set up by Mack, nine minutes into the second half pushed the Bucks' advantage to four.

The Gemini got on the board three minutes later before Will Kietzien scored for the Bucks 19 minutes into the second half, with an assist from Tino Seicuna (Redford/Detroit Country Day), making it 5-1.

The Gemini got two goals in the last five minutes, one on a penalty kick, but it didn't change the outcome.

The Bucks outshot Dayton 16-11, with keeper Eric Pogue (Troy Athens) making three saves in goal.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS

Monday, June 17, 2002
7:00 P.M.
And On
Monday, July 15, 2002
7:00 P.M.

Purpose: To hold a public hearing to comply with Section 128(2) of the Community College Act (Act #331 of the Public Acts of 1966 and codified as MCL 380.141, Sec. 9) in order to further grant the powers and authority of a peace or law enforcement officer to the police officers of Oakland Community College.

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