

Farmington Soccer Club champs



Under-12 champions: The members of the Fireballs soccer team are (front row, left to right) Ilana Sprague, Melina Rossizi, Katie Paige, Alexis Clayton, (middle row) Katie Rivard, Kim Cheek, Ann Marie Brouillette, Kara Charbarneau, (back row) Stephanie Klosek, Jackie Murrenus, Bridgette Bearas, Jenna Charbarneau, Veronica Krahn, Kathleen Bruder, (fourth row) coaches Joe Clayton and Lee Charbarneau. Not pictured are Alexandra Brown, Rebecca Burger, Ruda Erkin and Stephanie Leib.

Fury wins Canton Invitational



Tourney champs: The under-13 Farmington Fury won the boys Premier Division in the Memorial Day Canton Invitational, taking the title with a 2-1 win over the Canton Crossfire. The team members are (front row, from left) Michael Mancotti, Samit Putrawala, Josh Boren, Ryan Laverty, Jeff Turk, Aaron Helisek, (back row, from left) assistant coach Brett Sarmento, coach Alan Helisek, Nathan Sarmento, Jim Watkins, Chris Sidor, Jonathan Young, Derrick Gella, Jonathan Laue, Chris Lyons, Andrew Mouranie, assistant coach John Lyons and Yohei Shiboyama. Not pictured is Scott Moscow.

Late push puts Spartans in championship game again

BY BRAD EMONS
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SOCCER

The Livonia Stevenson girls soccer team can see clearly now, especially after all the rain and lightning had disappeared Wednesday night at Jackson's Mehall Field.

After two 15-minute weather delays — one in each half because of lightning — the two-time defending state champion Spartans scored twice in the final 26 minutes to oust previously unbeaten Portage Central in the Division I semifinals, 2-0. Lindsay Gusick tallied the

game-winner with 25:24 left on a pinpoint skip pass from Dana White.

Less than five minutes later, White scored from Gusick to put the game away.

The victory sent Stevenson (18-4-1) to its sixth girls state final against Rochester Adams (20-2-2) Saturday at Plymouth Canton. Stevenson beat Adams in last year's title matchup, 3-0.

Adams won the other semifinal Wednesday with a 7-1 win over Grosse Pointe South.

"We've had some bumps along the road this year, but I think that helped us in the playoffs," Stevenson coach Jim Kimble said. "A lot of people didn't believe we could make it back again after what happened during the regular season, but there are still 28 people on this team who believed."

Portage, last year's Division II runner-up to Birmingham Groves, came in with a 23-0-2 record and averaging over five goals per game.

But Stevenson put the clamps on freshman sensation Lindsey Tarpley, and forwards Lisa

Grubb and Emily Wiegand, a trio who had combined for 103 of the team's 133 total goals.

Junior Cheryl Fox, who has marked some of the state's most prolific scorers this year, kept Tarpley in check.

"Number 11 (Fox) is a great defender," Portage Central coach Pat Norman said. "Lindsey only got the ball only a dozen times. She's our go-to person and when she gets the ball she can make things happen."

"We told her (Tarpley) not to turn and take her (Fox) on, just lay the ball back because we hadn't seen a defender like her."

The two teams were called off the field and sent to the buses for the second time of the night with 31:44 left in the match.

The rest seemed to rejuvenate the Spartans.

"During the break we talked about making the state semifinal a 30-minute game and how important it was to come out strong the first five minutes," Kimble said. "As it turned out we won the game in the first 10 minutes."

"It was a disciplined win because we had to play a disciplined style and it worked."

Stevenson's defense kept

Portage's front line from busting loose.

"Fox is probably the most underrated defender in the state," Kimble said. "She's a basketball player and understands defensive pressure. She's probably the most competitive kid I've ever had. And we back her up with a player like Andrea Sied. It can't get any better back there right now."

Gusick and White, along with Megan Urbats and Brianna Roy, kept the offensive pressure up, particularly during the final 30 minutes.

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