

## “You have to score more goals than the other team does”

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Written by CJ Malinowski

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***Three-goal first half helps Glenelg glide past Easter Tech, 4-1, into the state finals (VIDEOS HERE).***



***Junior Christina Kaminsky started the Glenelg scoring, Saturday, following-up a bobbled save for the 1-0 lead over Eastern Tech.***

Every year, the North, South, East and West regions are cycled through the state playoff brackets, rearranging the match-ups that will ultimately determine the two teams competing for a state title.

In those brackets, the Glenelg Gladiators have reached the state playoffs for the past five consecutive seasons, and this year beat four-time state semifinalist Eastern Tech on Saturday, 4-1, for a chance to obtain the school's seventh state title.

“They had to play hard, and it was very important to possess the ball and keep the ball at our feet,” Glenelg Head Coach Dean Sheridan said. “We like to be able to possess, hold the ball and move it around quickly on the ground, and I think we did a good job of doing that for 60 to 80 minutes, and that was the key.”

Helping control the ball on the Gladiator front was junior midfielder Christina Kaminsky, who applied extra pressure on a free kick by senior Elizabeth Ebeling and tapped in a bobbled save for the early Glenelg lead, 1-0.

“Liz just played it overtop and we always talk about how we have to pressure and be there for it,” Kaminsky said. “We all just started crashing the box and the goalie bobbled it, and we just put it in.”

Kaminsky was quickly joined by senior teammate Erin Kaminsky to bring the score to 2-0 after Erin punched a shot from the top of the box and past the Maverick goalie, and assisted junior Danielle Burris to the scoring ranks when she dished a pass to her that would be scored for the 3-0 lead at halftime.

“We came out and I think we started out really strong, and they just got that first bad goal which shouldn't have happened,” Maverick Head Coach Kim Williams said. “Our heads went down a bit and we may not have played as hard, and that second goal made us really put our heads down.”

The Gladiators placed 11 shots on goal while possessing the ball for the majority of the first half, seeing just a couple breakaway opportunities by the Mavericks that were silenced by junior keeper Brooke Carey.

But the Mavericks were able to get on the board later in the game, seeing senior Jamie Richardson scoring shortly after Glenelg's Rachel McCarriher put a left-footer into the net



for the 4-1 final.

The goal was the seventh score the Gladiators have allowed all season, shutting out 11 of 12 opponents heading into the state semis.

Eastern Tech has faced a bit of a goalie dilemma in recent weeks, seeing its starter dislocate her shoulder in the warm-ups of the region semifinal and deciding between the two freshman back-ups.

But in the later part of the first half, Saturday, junior varsity pull-up sophomore Heather Bowers stepped up and told Coach Williams that she would give the net a shot.

"Our goalie story is a long story," Williams said. "We started out with a freshman and decided to make a switch to see if a little more experience would help.

"We just learned yesterday that she plays goalie. We figured we had another freshman we could put in, or go with this girl who plays back up to our starting keeper in club ball. So we decided to make the move and I think she did a good job out there for saying, 'Hey, let's try it.'"

Starting keeper Elise Thompson, who started in the regional final win over Chesapeake, 6-0, made three saves before retiring, and Bowers played the remained of the game with five saves.



Senior Rachael McCarriher put the finishing touches on Glenelg's 4-0 win, Saturday, lacing a left-footer into the back of the net.

The Mavericks finished the season 9-6-2, and won their fourth straight regional title with three senior starters on the team, and Williams is already looking forward to the 2011 season.

"They are a young group and we are very proud of them," Williams said. "From day one, it took us a while to find the combination of where we needed girls and where they worked best. And it really did take us most of the season.

"We are very happy with the results we had this season, and we look forward to having 20 of those girls back next season."

The Gladiators won't have to wait till next year to play another game, and will turn their sites to Middletown next weekend at UMBC for a 2A state championship.

"First, you have to score more goals than the other team does. That's primary," Sheridan explained. "For us, that involves keeping our defense organized. Now we just have to go out and win one shutout in-a-row.

"To really win out defensively solid, we have to win the ball in the air at midfield and continue doing what these young ladies, Beth and Emily, do, and this is hunt back hard and put a lot of pressure on other teams back to try and win the ball."

Glenelg 4, Eastern Tech 1			
	1	2	F
Glenelg	3	1	4
Eastern Tech	0	1	1

<b>Goals:</b> GLE-C. Kaminsky, E. Kaminsky, Burris, McCarriher; ET-Richardson.
<b>Assists:</b> GLE-Ebeling, C. Kaminsky.
<b>Saves:</b> GLE-Carey 2; ET-Thompson 3, Bowers 5.
<b>Shots:</b> GLE-17; ET-5.

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