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Glads don't give an inch while taking region crown

Todd McElwee | Staff Writer

Stingy doesn't begin to describe the defensive capacity of Glenelg High's girls' soccer team. Through four playoffs outings, the Gladiators have allowed just one goal.

On Monday, they advanced to the Class 1A state semifinals with a 1-0 victory over Harford County's Patterson Mill.

Kristen Schmidbauer knocked in Glenelg's lone score against the Huskies after collecting a deflection from inside the box approximately 15 minutes after intermission.

The Gladiators opened postseason play by posting a pair of 7-0 drubbings against Havre De Grace and South Carroll. On Halloween the edged out Harford Tech 2-1 to advance to the South championship against Patterson Mill.

Glenelg (8-7-1) is the defending 1A state champion, and along with a 2A crown in 2006, have not dropped a postseason match in three seasons. During both of their title campaigns, the Glads have relied heavily on seniors, graduating 13 in 2006 and 10 last year. That changed this season as Sheridan's squad contains only two seniors. Prominent amongst the Gladiators' youth movement is freshman Brooke Carney.

"It's been a little bit of a different path this year because we are so young," Sheridan said. "Unlike the last two years, we've had to get our leadership and focus from some different places. And that's been the primary thing we've have to work on in order to continue and advance."

The Eastern Shore's Mardela awaits Glenelg on 7:30 p.m. Friday at Annapolis' Broadneck High. Poolesville and Sparrows Point, who Glenelg defeated 2-0 in last year's finale, round out the field.

"No bad teams remain, everyone still playing is good."