



November 15, 2008

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## Glenelg girls capture title

Gladiators top Pointers on penalty kicks; Pocomoke boys win

By Glenn Graham

November 15, 2008

Before this season, freshman goalie Brooke Carey only knew of the rich girls soccer tradition at Glenelg.

Last night, she became part of it.

After Glenelg and Sparrows Point played 100 minutes of scoreless soccer in the Class 1A state title game at UMBC Stadium, Carey turned back two Pointers penalty kicks and the Gladiators showed poise in finishing off four chances to come away with a 4-3 decision in the shootout that gave the program its third straight state championship and sixth overall. Sparrows Point, which lost to the Gladiators, 2-0, in last year's championship game, finished as the runner-up for the fourth time in five years.

Kristen Schmidbauer, Ellen Axenfeld and Beverly Kirshe gave the Gladiators the advantage before Catherine Cottrell wrapped up the championship by neatly placing a shot to the lower right corner.

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"I watch their eyes and watch where their plant foot would be, and then it's mostly reaction," Carey said of the penalty kicks.

The two teams went back and forth for 100 minutes with neither willing to budge. On both sides, the defenses firmly held their ground and the two goalies - Carey and Sparrows Point's Kelsey Eagan - brought sure hands in the slick field conditions. The Pointers came the closest to breaking through, but both times when shots got past Carey, junior left fullback Hope LaHayne was protecting the goal line to clear balls away.

The tight marking continued in the second half, and every shot that got through to goal was handled by the goalkeepers. Glenelg had a chance to grab the lead in the 46th minute when junior forward Kirshe took a shot from 15 yards that rolled just

wide at the far post.

Late pressure also came from the Gladiators, started by a dangerous cross sent in by Rachel McCarriher. Schmidbauer had the first shot blocked in front, with Kirshe's rebound shot from 16 yards saved by Eagan.

"All I can say is it was one heck of a state final game," Sparrows Point coach Conrad Snyder said. "It's tough unfortunately for us that we came up on the short end, but that's how we got here. We went through PK's in the state semifinals, and sometimes you live by the sword, die by the sword. Tonight, I thought our girls did everything they could. They played extremely hard, and I'm very proud of them. Glenelg, we tip our hats to them - they were worthy of being here and worthy of being state champions."

### Pocomoke 3, Boonsboro 1:

Sam Byrd scored the game-winner off a corner kick five minutes into the second half as the Warriors from Worcester County won the Class 1A state title. It is their eighth state title and fourth straight. Byrd also assisted on a tying goal from Jordan Becker as the Warriors came back from a 1-0 deficit in the first half.

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