

September 18, 2011

Bardstown 0 - LCA 3

Season Record: 6-5-1

District Record: 1-1-0

The semi-final game of the All "A" State tournament pitted an upstart Bardstown HS against the LCA Lady Eagles. Bardstown is presently best known in the soccer world for its famous blogger #ChiChi63 but entered the game with an impressive 10-1 record and some lofty team goals. The teams battled for the first twenty-seven minutes with LCA establishing themselves as the dominant, if not physically dominant team, and more skilled squad. Although no goals were scored, Maddie Sjogren, Hannah Treadway, Rachel Bertrand and Elise McKinney created several scoring opportunities while Katelin Bundy finally had to use some of her talents to defend a couple first half shots.

At the thirteen minute mark in the first, Rachel Bertrand took a pass near the left edge of the box and split two Bardstown defenders before being upended in the box and awarded a penalty kick by Mr. Jett. Elise McKinney stepped up and drove the ball just inside the right post and past a diving Bardstown keeper for what turned out to be the game winner and a 1-0 lead. The goal and the call rattled Bardstown and their fans and escalated the level of physical play up a notch.

Just moments later, Maddie Sjogren went high between two Bardstown defenders to win a header. Maddie played the ball to herself and caught up to it just inside the eighteen with Bardstown's keeper in hot pursuit of the ball. A deft touch moved the ball just past the onrushing keeper who was left with two bad choices - concede the goal or obstruct Maddie. Choosing the latter seemed a rational decision until Mr. Jett showed her a red card and awarded LCA with its second PK in a matter of minutes. If the first PK lit the fuse, the second launched the crowd into a frenzy. Caroline Hargis stepped up against the new Bardstown keeper and followed Elise's earlier shot just inside the right post for a 2-0 lead.

Within a minute, a frustrated Bardstown defender had committed a silly foul inside the box and the ever confident Mr. Jett duly awarded a third penalty kick to the Lady Eagles. While three PKs in a five minute span is not the norm, LCA was continuously putting themselves in the box with scoring opportunities that were negated by fouls and thereby earning the PKs. Even ChiChi63 agreed with the calls except maybe for the red card. Elise McKinney stepped up for her second PK of the day and drove the same shot just inside the right post for a 3-0 lead that sent the faithful into complete frustration.

That was more than enough for the LCA Lady Eagles who met Bardstown's physical play head on the rest of the game and contained their nine attackers while resting starters and creating several more scoring opportunities for themselves. Throughout the game, LCA created 19 shots (12 of them on goal) and 6 corner kicks. Bardstown did warm Miss Bundy up for the final by taking 7 shots with 5 on goal but none of a sufficient quality to beat the LCA keeper. Win and advance has become motto of Coach Fugmann and his teams the last few years and this year's LCA Lady Eagles did just that and punched their ticket to the finals against a top ten St. Henry team who defeated LCA's friends from Owensboro Catholic 1-0.