

September 18, 2011

St. Henry 1 - LCA 0 (PK Shootout)

Season Record: 6-6-1

District Record: 1-1-0

The All "A" State tournament final game (aka St. Henry vs. LCA @ the All "A") found familiar foes if not familiar starters lined up and facing a good sized crowd in Frankfort for a Sunday evening championship tilt. The two teams have met in the final four straight years with St. Henry winning the first two and LCA the last.

Following the pre-game parade and introduction of the starting players, the game opened with St. Henry carrying play and LCA playing a patient, defensive minded game. My first impressions of the game were that the two top soccer teams reached the finals and the quality of play was as good as any I'd seen all season by both squads. In other words, it was good soccer to witness and enjoy. The teams battled throughout the first half until St. Henry earned a corner kick with about eight minutes left in the half. The kick was a little deep and when Katelin Bundy went up high to catch the ball above two St. Henry players the players collapsed on and collided with her while she was in the air. Despite a 'no call,' which was a general theme throughout the game, LCA's defense was able to clear the ball off the line and escape into the half at 0-0.

Two tired teams slugged it out in the second half with LCA having significantly more success in the offensive end. Perhaps it was the absence of St. Henry's Libby Leedom (#24) in the middle or just better play by the Eagles. Miss Leedom was moved from her midfield position in the first half to a center striker position in the second in the hope that she alone could manufacture a goal. Although Miss Leedom was a tremendously skilled player, she was unable to pull a rabbit out of the hat for the St. Henry coach this night. Meanwhile, LCA's offense began creating more and more opportunities and possessed the ball much better through the midfield on strong efforts by Hall, Boone, Bertrand and Sjogren. While the defense held, the offense worked, but the clock ran out with neither team able to find the net.

Unlike district play, the tournament game went straight to penalties and St. Henry ultimately prevailed 4-2 wresting the All "A" title away from defending champion LCA Eagles. The young Lady Eagles played very well throughout the weekend finding the net on many occasions and not relinquishing a single goal in the run of play. Against a good Bardstown team and a very strong St. Henry team, that was quite an accomplishment. Congratulations to LCA's Julie Sunday, Caley Hall and Katelin Bundy for being selected to the All "A" State tournament team and to all of the players on the team who saw minutes and took a step forward on this weekend.