



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Sunday, May 25, 2008

4A boys soccer | Bellarmine Prep turns back Puyallup challenge | Eastlake takes third place with win over Beamer, 3-2

By Zach Landres-Schnur
Special to The Seattle Times

LAKEWOOD — On one side there was hugging, screaming and a Gatorade bath. On the other? Jerseys over heads, tears and players collapsed on the turf.

Just the cruelty of the beautiful game.

After 90 minutes couldn't decide Saturday's Class 4A state championship at Harry Lang Stadium, the state title came down to penalty kicks where Bellarmine Prep netted four goals to Puyallup's three, taking the championship 2-1.

"I'm heartbroken for Puyallup," said Lions coach Joe Waters. "It's a heck of a way to lose a game."

With Bellarmine Prep of Tacoma leading the shootout 4-3, Puyallup had the chance to tie, but a Viking player's shot sailed high, causing a wild celebration from the Lions.

But with a chance to win it, a Bellarmine player's shot was saved by Vikings' keeper Kyle Bilharz. With a chance to tie and send the shootout to the sixth round, a Puyallup player's shot was saved by Bellarmine Prep keeper Chris Carlin, causing the Lions to go into a frenzy and for the Viking player to collapse to the ground.

"Every soccer player says it," said Puyallup coach Matt White. "It should never have to end in a shootout."

The entire Lions team came over to console the Vikings player, who was still down three minutes after his shot was deflected.

Vikings junior forward Justin Veltung took a Pat O'Day pass on the far right side and curved the shot into the left corner of the net in the 72nd minute for a 1-0 lead for Puyallup (17-2-2).

It didn't last long.

Two and half minutes from a season-ending loss, Bellarmine (22-1) finally connected on a corner kick. Tyler Mernaugh's pass was headed in by defender Elliot Morton for the equalizer.

"When I hit it, I knew it was going in," said Morton, a Seattle Pacific signee.

Added Waters on Morton, the Narrows League MVP: "He's carried this team on his shoulders all season long."

Third-fourth place

Eastlake 2, Beamer 1

Eastlake's **Jordan Softli** and **Gordon Savage** both scored as the Wolves (14-8) bounced back from a tough shootout loss to Bellarmine Friday in the semifinals.

The third-place finish is the Sammamish school's highest since finishing third in 2000.

"This was all about individual pride," said Wolves coach Adam Gervis. "They brought individual pride, they brought collective pride. I cannot say enough about this group."

Beamer's Troy Peterson scored on a penalty kick in the 68th minute. The Titans from Federal Way finish the season 13-7-2.