

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

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### Boys Soccer/AAA\*-Eastlake Tops Ferris For Second State Title

By **Danny O'neil**  
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SELAH - The Class AAA\* state championship trophy was getting heavy in **Mike Casale's** arms.

But it wasn't as heavy as his heart, which was still reeling from the death of his friend, Joe Bolger. And it wasn't as heavy as his feet, which felt like dead weight after playing two games in as many days.

So after Eastlake's 1-0 soccer victory over Spokane's Ferris yesterday, **Casale** held on to the trophy for a few more minutes, celebrating the **Wolves' second consecutive state title**.

But a cloud hung over the celebration.

"We couldn't even score on them," said Eastlake senior **Nick Downing**.

The Wolves (17-0), ranked third in the nation in the United States Soccer Coaches Association poll, won on an own goal by Ferris (19-2) in the 16th minute of the second half.

Ferris is ranked eighth in the nation.

**Casale** set up the own goal with a pass that crossed the mouth of the goal. A Ferris defender kicked it into the goal in an attempt to keep Eastlake's **Matt Flynn** from taking a point-blank shot.

"The defender had to make a play," Eastlake Coach Jon Matsushita said.

The goal brought a sense of relief to Redmond's Eastlake, which dominated time of possession.

"It was just like, 'Thank you,' " **Casale** said. "Sometimes you need something like that."

The Wolves outshot Ferris 11-3 in the second half but failed to convert their scoring opportunities.

"It was just unlucky," Dunning said of the Wolves' missed chances.

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\* **Editor Note:** WIAA enrollment classifications were revised in the fall of 1997 when the 2A classification was created, moving 2A to 3A and 3A to 4A, so Eastlake is now reflected as the 4A Champion for 1996 and 1997 on WIAA historical records, but was correctly reported by the Seattle Times in this story as the State 1997 3A Champion (the largest school classification existing at that time.).

\*\* **Editor Note:** This Seattle Times article was written before Sammamish was incorporated in 1999, hence the references to Eastlake being a Redmond school were also correct at the time of this story's original publication.

Ferris had a scoring opportunity with 10 minutes remaining. The Saxons' Brent Molsberry intercepted a pass in the Wolves' backfield, and only freshman goalie Brandon Fell's decision to come out and smother the loose ball prevented a game-tying goal.

"I almost had a heart attack when I saw it happen," **Downing** said.

But the late-game scare faded quickly as Eastlake reestablished control.

The Wolves had an emotionally draining week that concluded with Bolger's funeral Thursday. The Eastlake junior, a member of the track team, died last weekend while participating in a fund-raising boxing event for his class.

"I had to dig a little deeper to get motivated for this weekend," Downing said.

Eastlake players wore black arm bands on both sleeves in memory of Bolger, and T-shirts which said, "For Joe."

In the third-place game, Ryan Morey scored twice, including a goal with less than a minute left in the second overtime, to lift North Thurston (17-5) of Lacey past Bellarmine Prep (15-3-1) of Tacoma 2-1.