

Lady Cavaliers capture second at Spring Cup

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The new venue was nearly as exciting as the new season when the Carlinville High School girls' soccer team opened the 2010 season by hosting the 3rd Annual Spring Cup March 19 and 20. It was the first time that soccer matches had been played the CHS Athletic Field, home of the Cavalier football and track teams. While the Bermuda grass on the field was brown, the surface played well and fast, which favored the home team.

The tournament included Class A Carlinville and three Class AA opponents in Springfield Southeast, Bethalto Civic Memorial, and Breese Mater Dei. The Lady Cavaliers had an impressive performance against the larger schools beating Southeast on Friday evening 5-0. CHS followed that up with solid 3-0 win Saturday morning setting up a showdown against Mater Dei for the championship Saturday afternoon. After playing 80 minutes to a 1-1 with the Knights, Carlinville lost 5-4 in a penalty kick shootout.

The Lady Cavaliers wasted little time attacking on the fast playing surface Friday against Southeast. Senior captain Nikki Boente was tripped in the penalty box just minutes into the game. Her penalty shot was placed into the bottom right corner for the season's first goal. Carlinville continued to attack early in the match. The second goal was set up by Staci Lewis's assist. Lewis settled a cross onto the ground for Maggie Walker. The junior midfielder placed her shot into the upper left corner for a 2-0 lead. Freshman forward Maddie Boente scored her first career goal after being set up by Kimmy Dworzynski. The Cavies fourth goal was the result of an initial thru ball from M. Boente to N. Boente that split two defenders. N. Boente's shot was saved by the goalie, but M. Boente was able to score her second goal of the game on the rebound. N. Boente scored her second goal of the game to begin the second half. Dworzynski again assisted on the goal. Leah Kaegy had seven saves in goal as she earned her first shutout of the season.

Saturday morning CHS faced Civic Memorial. For the second straight game the Lady Cavaliers controlled the possession throughout. N. Boente again opened the scoring. Fourteen minutes into the game she controlled a pass from Dworzynski in front of the charging goalie for CM. N. Boente calmly dribbled around the goalie to score the opening goal.

Despite multiple opportunities, Carlinville didn't score again until the 35th minute. M. Boente knocked in a loose ball near the penalty spot to move CHS ahead 2-0 at halftime. Megan Schlender scored her first goal of the season nine minutes into the second half. The goal was the game's last as the Lady Cavaliers won 3-0. Kaegy again had seven saves as she earned her second shutout of the season.

Saturday afternoon amounted to the championship match of the round robin tournament. Both Carlinville and Mater Dei entered the final match with identical records and 8 to 0 scoring differentials.

The match was even throughout the entire 80 minutes. Both teams had multiple opportunities to score in the opening half; both goalies made strong saves, and even field players kept the ball from crossing the goal line. Schlender made a great play to clear one shot off the CHS goal line. Just six minutes into the second half the CHS co-captains combined for the opening score. Schlender sent a diagonal pass between defenders to N. Boente on the right side of the goal. She

placed a low shot into the bottom left corner to give CHS a 1-0 lead with 34 minutes left in the game.

Mater Dei pressed to tie the score for the remainder of the game. With 13 minutes left in the game, the Knights scored the tying goal as a player's shot was held up in the air by a strong wind. The shot went into the top left corner to tie the score.

After 80 minutes, the game ended in a tie. Due to identical records and scores, the teams had to go to the fifth tie-breaker which was a penalty kick shootout. Mater Dei won the shootout 5-4 and claimed their second straight Spring Cup championship. The Lady Cavaliers finished the tournament with a record of 2-0-1.

Carlinville hosted Staunton in a non-conference match March 24 and will host a freshman tournament this Saturday, March 27. The Lady Cavaliers will begin competition in the Litchfield/Staunton Tournament March 29 through April 3.