

Oct. 31 CJ III Girls Soccer



The Nottingham High girls soccer team may not be No. 1 just yet, but they certainly pulled off the No. 1 upset in Central Jersey today as they 15th-seeded Northstars celebrate their 2-0 win at second-seeded Allentown (Photo by John Blaine/purchase photos by e-mailing jbsportphoto@aol.com).

Northstars may have shocked the world, but they didn't shock themselves By Rich Fisher Fish4Scores.com

Oct. 31: It may be Halloween, and while the rest of the New Jersey girls soccer world may think Nottingham's upset win over Allentown today was some kind of trick, it is actually a treat the Northstars expected to enjoy.

Yes they were seeded 15th and are now just 4-14 after their 2-0 win at second-seeded Allentown. Yes the Redbirds are 14-6-1 and took a 4-0 win over Nottingham earlier this year.

But the coaches and players knew, they just *knew* that those numbers were not accurate. Five one-goal losses and five two-goal losses told them that they were a much better team than that.

Today, they proved it.

"We said we were gonna win.," said sweeper Val Suto, who was outstanding. "Anybody who asked us 'You winning today?' we said 'Yeah, we are.'"

Who knows? On Thursday, they might prove it yet again at Matawan, which only beat Hamilton 1-0 in a first-round contest.

"Every game, we come into it like we have a shot," said senior defender Andrea Costantini. "You just can't let up. We didn't let up this time and it worked out great."

What Nottingham did, scoffs in the face of all those who do not want sub-.500 teams in the tournament. Some coaches – and wisely so – realize they have a bad record because they have a bad team and decide not to enter.

Other coaches, like Nottingham's Elyse Diamond, know their team can compete.

"A lot of people say 'Aww I don't want to go into the tournament, it's not worth it,' Diamond said. "I really wanted to go in the tournament because we were in so many games this year.

"We weren't blown out. In the past we got blown out, but we weren't blown out this year. These girls just have to believe in themselves and they did today."

A little pre-game meal helped spur them on.

"We got out of school early today and we had a lunch as a team," said Kaitlyn Diamond after scoring both goals. "We talked about the game, we're hoping for the best. We knew if we went out and played our hardest we could win."

Elyse Diamond is thrilled for her team, and even more thrilled for Costantini and Kaitlyn Ragolia.

"We only have two seniors, if we can keep it going for them that's what we're gonna try to do," the coach said. "It was a sweet win."

Sweeter than Halloween candy.