

Oct. 4 Girls Soccer



Colleen Murphy used her head two times in a row to set up Hamilton's winning goal in overtime today (Photo by Dennis Symons Jr./purchase photos at

Femia saves the day as Steinert plays Princeton to scoreless tie

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

Oct. 4: As a freshman, Briyanna Femia showed how clutch she could be with some outstanding saves during the state tournament.

A year later, Femia is showing it was no fluke.

The sophomore goalie came up with 10 saves today, including a sparkler on Princeton's Dana Smith in the waning minutes of regulation, to preserve the Spartans' scoreless tie with the Little Tigers.

In the 87th minute, Smith ripped a shot that appeared headed just under the crossbar. At the last minute, Femia tipped it up and over the goal.

"I saw that she was gonna take the shot because she had an alley way and I could see her," the goalie said. "I was prepared for it, I took that step back, jumped back and got it."

For a split second Femia thought it was in, but breathed easier when she saw it go over the goal.

"She's a great keeper and she timed that perfectly," Steinert coach Aimee Turnbull said. "That was a huge save for us. She's saved us a lot of times, not just this game, but other games as well.

"I can come up with a lot of times when she's come up with some really big saves. Those are important but the other things she does, like being vocal with the team, is important as well."

And one of the main players she needs to be vocal with is senior sweeper Mollie Coyne, as the two are playing together for the first time and communication between keeper and sweeper is key.

Coyne missed all of last year after ACL surgery and is playing with a brace this season. She appears to be moving well and is doing the job.

"She's so good," Femia said. "I thought when she was hurt last year she was a midfielder. When she told me she was a back I was like 'This is cool.' She's so good for someone that small. She takes you out in such an awesome way, it's so much fun to watch her."

As for communication, Turnbull and Femia both say it's there.

"We definitely talk to each other," Femia says. "She helps me out a lot."

"Mollie came back and made an immediate impact," Turnbull said. "She was voted as a captain by her peers. She has a quiet presence but still has a presence.

"Bri and her are fine together. Bri is vocal, Mollie not as much but they're able to balance each other out."

Kind of like the score balanced itself out today. Princeton had most of the play in the first half and early in the second before Steinert began to stir. The Spartans nearly scored a picture-perfect goal when Lindsay Usarzewicz and Angelina Buzgo worked a slick give-and-go before Buzgo's shot was saved.

Steinert had a few other opportunities, but nothing as dangerous. Still, the Spartans held on and moved to 5-3-1. Princeton is 5-1-3.

"Earlier in the season I don't know if we would have fought as hard or been in the shape we were in at the end," Turnbull said. "We battled and I'm proud of that. Princeton's a good team but I thought we had some opportunities."

Hamilton overcomes key defensive problems for huge comeback win

No goalie? No sweat.

No sweeper? No problem.

Hamilton West began today's game with Ewing without goalie Erin Septer and sweeper Danielle Schneck. The Hornets then fell behind 2-0 and 4-1.

But in notching their most inspirational win in years, Hamilton rallied for a 5-4 double-overtime victory over the Blue Devils today, giving West a 2-1-1 record in the last four games.

The game was decided with four minutes left in the second OT when Colleen Murphy won a 50-50 ball by first heading it to herself, then heading it past a defender to freshman Sam Santiago, who volleyed home the game-winner.

"We overcame a lot of adversity to pick up a big win," coach Anthony Tessein said. "We came into the game with a depleted lineup.

"Erin is our only goalkeeper and we found out midway through Monday's practice she wouldn't be cleared to play today so we had a quick goalkeeper tryout at the end of practice. Danielle Schneck was battling an illness, but she came into the game in the second half and solidified our defense when we most needed it."

Winning the goalie race was Allyson McCormick, who volunteered for the pressure-packed position.

"Her performance wasn't pretty but she did the job and ultimately earned her first win as a goalkeeper," Tessein said. "She was clearly nervous and felt out of place because she continued to use her feet rather than her hands for most of the first half.

"However, towards the end of the first half she made a nice two-handed punch over the goal that built up her confidence and she played more like a keeper from then on."

McCormick finished with 15 saves.

After falling behind 2-0, Hamilton's Loran Wyrrough scored off Sam Barlow's corner kick. It stayed that way into the second half before Ewing scored two quick goals by blowing by defenders.

"We were experimenting with a different formation and we were exposed on those two plays," Tessein said. "McCormick had no chance on either goal. The second was a three-on-zero after we failed on an onside trap."

Hamilton refused to wilt, however. Wyrrough scored on a penalty kick after being taken down in the box. With 15 minutes remaining, Barlow took a pass from Wyrrough, took a touch toward the goal then placed a 25-yard kick into the back of the net.

With both sides still pressing, McCormick came up with some big saves. In the 78th minute, Barlow sent a through ball past defenders and Wyrrough ran onto the ball before beating the defenders and converting.

In the first overtime, Allyson Prekop nearly headed in another corner from Barlow but a defender on the post blocked the attempt. A direct kick by Barlow in the second OT went toward the upper 90 but the Ewing goalie made an outstanding save.

All that did was set up Santiago to be the hero.

"It was a great feeling and the girls' are finally playing with some real confidence," Tessein said.

Nottingham rolls past Trenton for second straight victory

And now, a streak the other way.

After dropping its first eight games this year, Nottingham has won two straight after today's 7-0 victory over Trenton.

Brittany Shipley had three goals and Kaitlyn Diamond added two for the Northstars. Dana Davies and Kristina Ragolia both scored goals for the second straight game.

Lindsay Argiriou and Sara Eggert picked up assists.