

Brevard women finish fourth in national soccer finals

Brevard College's women's soccer team completed an unprecedented year, finishing fourth in the NJCAA Women's Soccer National Championships, Nov. 17.

The first game Thursday, Nov. 15, pitted No. 2 BC against No. 1 St. Louis Community College of Florissant Valley, Mo., Thursday in the opening round of the national championships in Trenton, N.J. Coach Joe Bartlinski said, "That was definitely the national title game right there, because Flo went out and beat Schoolcraft (who we'd already beaten) in the finals 4-0. So, whoever won our game honestly had the best shot at winning the national title."

St. Louis-Flo Valley opened the scoring with just one minute left in the half. BC responded 30 minutes into the second half on a steal by Jennifer McMaster, a cross from Heidi Kaiser and the goal by Nikki Thompson.

St. Louis-Flo Valley made the go-ahead goal with 15 minutes left in the game after BC goalie Tammy Scott had made four consecutive saves.

"It's a shame we had to play the top-ranked team first," said Coach Bartlinski, "but they played well. The last 15 minutes was all ours, attacking and crashing, but we just couldn't finish. It was a battle all the way."

BC advanced in the loser's bracket to a Friday game with Anne Arundel of Maryland, and there, the Lady Tornadoes took out their frustrations with a 4-1 win. "We just dominated," Bartlinski said. "We were disappointed (by the Thursday loss) and I told the girls we were just going to have to prove we're the top team in the nation by going out and stomping everyone else. They regrouped, and they did."

BC advanced next to the cold and nasty game against Mitchell, winning 2-1 Saturday in the freezing rain and wind on the hard field at Trenton.

Coach Bartlinski describes the day as "the worst day of soccer I've ever been involved in as far as the weather went." Still, it was a great game for BC. Mitchell, ranked third most of the year, scored in the first ten minutes. And, after two BC goals were disallowed by the refs, BC tied it with Heidi Kaiser's blast.

Laura Clark won it for the Tornadoes in the second half on an attacking goal in which she commanded the ball with her back to the keeper, then turned and scored the clincher.

It was the final BC game for sophomore starters (everyone except freshman goalie Tammy Scott): Samantha Griffiths, Lenny McClellan, Linda Hunt, Laura Clark, Vicki Ruiz, Nikki Thompson, Colleen Runion, Heidi Kaiser, Jennifer McMaster and Jennifer Keltner. Colleen Runion was named All-Tournament.

-- BC News Bureau



Heidi Kaiser's face is beaming with joy because she has just blasted a goal against Lees-McRae in the Nov. 3 Region X championship victory. In the background, the Lady Bobcats look like they wish they were elsewhere. (Clarion photos by Jock Lauterer)

Three Brevard women soccer players named All-American

Three players from Brevard College's highly-successful women's soccer team have been named All-Americans last month.

Colleen Runion, a sophomore from St. Louis, and Samantha Griffiths, a sophomore from Universal City, Texas, were named All-American first team by the National Junior College Athletic Association. Jennifer McMaster, an Orlando, Fla., sophomore, was named second team All-American.

According to BC Women's Soccer Coach Joe Bartlinski, three is the highest number of players from any school to be named All-American this fall. Also, the three Lady Tornadoes are the first women in the school's history to earn All-American status.

"We're very pleased," he said, "but a couple of others deserved All-American as well." BC finished with a 17-3 record, fourth in the nation, and the best in the school's history of women's soccer.

BC News Bureau

Tales from between the hedges...

If I'd only had a chimp...

by John Wellenhofer
Clarion Sports Editor

Well, here we are in the dead of a colorful winter and once again my foot is ten inches in my mouth.

A while back, I wrote a piece stating how this year's college football national championship race was a joke. I've never been so surprised to see the top 25 in utter chaos (not that it's a big accomplishment to surprise me -- it happens daily).

At this moment, Lov and his Benders are probably praying, the Cavaliers are drinking the pain away, and Colorado is hoping to get 5th down more often.

Heisman winner Ty Detmer and his fellow Mormons were thinking Number One, but the Hawaii Rainbow Warriors smacked some sense into them. There's always the Yellowjackets of Georgia Tech and how they are possibly wondering where they would be without the Tar Heels (quite a bit of wondering going on, eh?)

The basic fact of the matter is that a chimp could have made better predictions but I don't have access to a

chimp, so sue me, or give me a lifetime expulsion (like Dex Manley said, "See you in a year.")

Even more ironic is the situation of the bowl committees who've shelled out a truckload of money to sub-lime teams such as past Number One and Hokie favorite Virginia or the Gator bait Auburn Tigers. Folks, to tell the truth, just about anybody can win the national title except Kansas maybe, and even they're working on it.

The hour grows late and I have grown weary from too much thought of this ever-confusing subject. I would hope that this time next year I will have grown either more accurate on my predictions or the NCAA will have worked out a Division 1 playoff. I surely don't see the first of the two happening any time soon, and I'm holding my breath on the second.

For now these egghead sportswriters and the donut-happy coaches will have to settle for ballots. I've now missed the first ten minutes of roller derby and the understandable fact is we won't know who the national champion is until Jan. 2, so why not wait until then? (Amazing it took me that long to figure it out, eh?)

