

Kalida girls take 4th straight PCL soccer title

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CONTINENTAL — The Kalida Lady Wildcats soccer team was looking for a bit of redemption on Tuesday night as they took on the Continental Lady Pirates in soccer action as the teams battled for the Putnam County League title.

With the wind blowing in towards the Continental net to start the first half, the Wildcats took advantage and got an early goal from freshman Brittany Kahle to give them a 1-0 lead and never looked back as they rolled to a 3-1 victory.

Holtkamp and Jackie Gardner both added goals for the Wildcats; Holtkamp, Gardner and Joni Kaufman also contributed an assist in the victory.

Sloane Zachrich had the lone goal for Continental.

Kahle took a pass from Summer Holtkamp and placed the shot to the left of Continental goalkeeper, senior Leva Weller, with 30:24 to go in the first half.

Kalida took control early in the contest, keeping the ball in their offensive end of the pitch and wasting no time in delivering the shots at Continental net.

The Wildcat assault continued on in the first 40 minutes of play as the Pirate netminder was repeatedly delivering goal kicks or scooping up shot attempts. Kalida sent in five endeavors in an 8-minute period as Gardner led the attack.

McKenna Vorst sailed a delivery towards the Continental goal that sailed wide to the right with 18:10 left in the half, while Gardner pooched in a pair for 25 yards and 20 yards out, both swallowed up by Weller to keep the deficit at 1-0.

Holtkamp rocked the crossbar with an attempt with 7:20 to go in the half and Gardner sent in four more in the next five minutes-plus but the sure-handed Weller was able to keep the guests at bay for the remainder of the half.

In the second 40 minutes, while the wind was now in favor of the Pirates, the Kalida defensive domination continued. Kalida allowed just three shots on-goal to the Pirates and kept their hosts in their defending end for the better part of the half.

The score remained 1-nil until the 30-minute mark of the second half when the sophomore Gardner took a shot that Weller (12 saves) knocked down but Holtkamp was right there to clean up the trash and send it past Weller into the back of the net, making it a 2-0 contest.

The intensity also picked up in the second 40 minutes as three yellow cards were issued to the Pirates as frustration began to set in.

Kalida added to their advantage with 18 minutes left when Kaufman, a freshman, put a pass into the penalty area that found the foot of Gardner, promptly placing it into the back of the net, giving the LadyCats a 3-0 lead.

The Pirates got just one corner kick in the game (5-1 on behalf of Kalida) but they made it count and avoided being blanked when Vanessa Kopenhofer sent the kick into the 18 that Zachrich placed it by Sarah Verhoff (2 saves versus 5 shots on-goal) with just two minutes left to go.

The Wildcats (with 23 shots) are 14-0-1, finishing 4-0-0 in the PCL for their fourth straight league title after sharing the crown with the Pirates last year.

Continental finished 2-1-1 in the league and are 10-3-2 in all games.