

Turnabout's fair play

Mooney girls' soccer upset by Sperry in sectional rematch

By Kevin Myers

Last year, the Cardinal Mooney girls' soccer team emerged victorious from its semifinal match against Rush-Henrietta Sperry, dashing its opponents' hopes for a championship bid. Last week, R-H returned the effort, beating second-seeded Mooney 1-0 in the 1985 Section 5 Class AAA tournament.

In the grueling head-to-head rematch Wednesday, Oct. 30, at Hilton, Mooney was unable to capitalize on scoring opportunities against the same team it pounded 5-0 in last year's tournament pairing.

"Our season went this way all year," said Mooney coach Scott Morrison. "Last year, when the scoring chances were there, we put the ball in the net. This year, R-H was a better team than last year ... But there were several good chances (for Mooney) when the ball just wouldn't go in the net."

Statistically, the game was a perfect match-up. Both teams had 19 shots-on-goal. Mooney goalie Tracy Schmidt had 16 saves, and Rush-Henrietta goalie Chris Eckert had 15.

The outcome of soccer games is often determined by one split-second shot. Morrison said this is a factor even more typical in sectional games than during the regular season, because sectional scores are usually lower. Both teams had several good scoring chances during the game, but until late in the third quarter, none of the close calls was converted into points.

Sophomore halfback Sue Zonneville scored for the Comets on a head shot 15 minutes into the third quarter, giving R-H the only score it needed to earn a berth in the championship against Grece Arcadia on Saturday, Nov. 2, at Webster. R-H was defeated in the championship match Satur-

day, 3-1.

Mooney was outplayed, out hustled and outshot in the first quarter of the game. But the second period was all Mooney. Close calls by Katherine and Theresa Nietopski, Terri Lamphron and Sandy Zollo highlighted the powerful second quarter drives, but the hustling Mooney players were denied a score. Eight minutes into the third quarter, Theresa Nietopski hurt her wrist, and was forced to leave the game. "This took some of the wind out of her line," Morrison said.

Midway through the third quarter, R-H regained control of the game. Tracy Schmidt was beat twice consecutively, on a high shot over her head, missing the net by a few inches, and then on a shot that rolled along the goal line. The ball finally went in the net when Zonneville caught Schmidt out of the net.

The fourth quarter was all Mooney again,

but several powerful shots by Zollo were stopped by Eckert. With seven seconds left in the game, Mooney called a time out and planned a crucial corner-kick play. They still had not given up. Not until the horn blew, sounding the game's end, did the Mooney players realize they had been beaten.

Often, when a team loses a game in a semifinal or championship match, it is remembered more for that loss than for the great season that led up to the championship. Morrison hopes to keep that from happening, at least among the Mooney players themselves. "The season was very successful," he said of the Cardinal's 14-2-4 record. "At the beginning of the year it looked tough, because we lost a lot of seniors from last year's team. I thought we would have difficulty, but we came on to surprise a lot of people, including me. They (Mooney players) have nothing to be ashamed of."



Junior Sandy Zollo winds up for a kick to a teammate downfield.



Laura Spoonhower, #10, and Meredith Rae comfort each other about Mooney's loss to Rush-Henrietta Sperry, while Leighanne Palcic's face expresses the emotion of the entire team.

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