

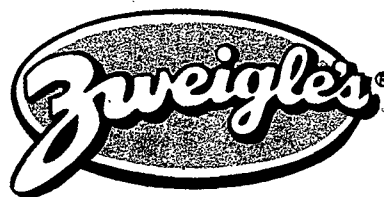


Leila Navidi/Catholic Courier

Mollie Hurley (center) and fellow senior Christine Farmer (right) celebrate Elmira Notre Dame's state championship win. The Crusaders defeated Mattituck of Long Island, 2-0, Nov. 15 to win the Class C title.

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with eight saves.

"Definitely this was number one," Lucero said when asked how the state final rated with her all-time best games. "I just had so much adrenaline."

Though the Webster field was slightly glazed and soggy, the chilly evening was nothing compared to what ND endured in its semifinal victory one night earlier. Overcoming blustery and snowy weather, the Crusaders managed a 3-2 win over Kendall of Section 5 at Brighton High School. Frost had two goals in that game, and Farmer added the other.

Notre Dame finished its 2003 season with a 20-3 record. The Crusaders had won their second consecutive Section 4 Class C title earlier this fall, then downed defending state champ Watertown Immaculate Heart Central to reach the state semifinals.

Savoring the state title in a special way is Weber, who began the girls' soccer program at Notre Dame in 1986 and has been with it ever since. Despite fielding numerous strong teams over the years, this was the Crusaders' first trip to the state semifinal round — let alone their first title.

"Obviously every coach thinks about it, but you never know if you're going to get this far," Weber said.

When it was noted that his job is probably safe for a while, he quipped, "I hope so. I'm the athletic director." Weber then struggled to come up with an apt word to describe his joy. But Frost knew exactly what she wanted to say.

"I feel great," she said with a huge grin, as teammates and supporters continued their whooping several minutes after the game had ended. "It just feels incredible."

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