

National Elite Prep Soccer Showcase Jan 12-14

Allen Varsity soccer girls entered this top national High school tournament knowing they would be playing an extremely tough schedule against opponents ranked in the Top 20 in the nation... Coppell #3, Colleyville Heritage #4, St Thomas Aquinas Florida #13 (National champions 2011) and Midland, Regional finalists in 2011. They walked away Saturday night proud of a 1 win, 2 ties and 1 loss record and made great strides in starting to establish a top level state program.

Thurs Jan 12 at Gateway Park 7pm Allen 2-1 Midland

It was very cold conditions at 7pm at Gateway Park but the wind had dropped . We decided to split the squad with some players rested and not travel for Friday's game v St Thomas due to the cold temperatures.

In the 1st half we played attractive soccer and went close with shots by Ally Johnson (Jr) and Ashley Casey (Sr). We went ahead with 15 mins remaining in the 1st half with a direct kick by Teri Todd(Sr) that sailed into the top corner

In the 2nd half Midland produced more effort and 11 mins in scored when their forward rounded Danielle McIntyre (soph) and shot into the back corner over goalie Nicole Limpert (Jr). We were under a little pressure as they hit the post from a corner but then we started to get back into the game. Tori Spears (Sr) headed against the bar from a cross and then just missed with a flick shot round the post. A quick corner with 11 mins left put us up. Marianne Kemme's (soph) quick pass to Johnson who crossed and in the scramble sophomore Courtney Calton stabbed it home. We absorbed pressure and saw out the game for 2-1 victory

Fri St Thomas Aquinas Florida 10am TCU Score Allen 0-1 St Thomas

The weather started to warm up as we visited TCU. We were playing St Thomas a national powerhouse coming to the end of their regular season as they started in November and 2011 national champions. We started slowly and were quickly punished for failure to clear the ball in the first 5 mins. Their forward dribbled through our defence and slotted home. We were under pressure for 20 mins and rode our luck with a goal disallowed for offside and goalie Shannon Maroney (Sr) making strong saves and clearances. Gradually we started to play our way into the game and our confidence began to develop. In the 2nd half we played down the sloping field and began to attack them . We came close a couple of times . Spears had a header hit off the cross bar. Bri Horan(soph) was strongly tackled as she closed in to score. Defensively we played more aggressively. We still came up short but made progress as we realized we can compete with nationally ranked programs.

Sat 10am v Colleyville Heritage at Gateway Park Allen 2-2 Heritage

We decided to play all of our squad players for at least 20 mins each as we tried to stay fresh for the final game v Coppell in the afternoon. Bright sunshine greeted us at Gateway Park. In the first half goalie Katie Pruneau (Sr) made a courageous save at the feet of a forward. Heritage went ahead when a midfielder was allowed to dribble through and score. We came back to tie it with 10 mins left with

sophomore Chloe Fowler hitting a strong right footed shot into the far corner. We started to dominate the game with fresh legs. Lauren Gonzalez (Jr) put us ahead 10 mins into the 2nd half with a stunning shot from 25 yards out but we again allowed them to get back with an equalizer. The last 15 mins we attacked and several goalmouth melees almost put us ahead but we had to settle for a tie.

Sat 4pm at TCU Coppell 0-0 Allen

All players and coaches had to stare into bright sunlight as we took on powerful Coppell in the final game of the tournament. It was an even game. Ashley Casey turned their defence inside out but we just failed to score. Our defence held firm and goalie Maroney made some good saves from crosses. Senior Kaitlyn Nimitz ran through, rounded the goalie but the ball ran over the end line before she could shoot.

In the 2nd half goalie Nicole Limpert came up strong with an aggressive defence in front of her. We had great chances with Johnson dribbling through and their defence cleared it away. Coppell was under pressure from Allen several times but we could not convert. Spears long free kick was pushed over the bar and a mad scramble in front of their goal was finally cleared. Our defence was superb and held tight to preserve a shutout. We had smiling faces and a lot of confidence now due to better performances against a strong opponent.

Record 1 win 1 loss 2 ties

Tues Jan 17 Allen 2-2 Frisco Centennial

It was a frigid evening as a cold wind blew into Frisco. We faced a top 4A team that had tied Hebron on Saturday in their tournament but we got off to a very fast start. Ashley Casey ran onto a through pass at 37 mins. The goalie hesitated and she beat her to push the ball into the net. A minute later it was a dream start as Casey placed a through ball to Kaitlyn Nimitz who dribbled around the keeper and slotted home.

We thought it would be easy but Centennial gradually fought their way back into the game. Their passes were quicker and crisper and put us on the back foot. At 27 mins an extremely long throw into our 6 yard box caused confusion and they scored. We counterattacked and had a couple of efforts but could not convert. Then catastrophe with a minute remaining of the first half. Chandler Robertson and goalie Katie Pruneau hesitated and no-one stepped up to clear. The forward nipped in to place the ball in the back of the net.

Second half got colder and we had a few chances to pull ahead from corners but they held firm. Our defence dealt with the long throws and counterattacks. Ashley Casey had two glorious chances at the end but the goalie thwarted her. After such a bright start it was disappointing not to gain the win. We strive to be a great team that learns to handle leads and do not allow an opponent to get back into the game.

Record 1 win 1 loss 3 ties

Marcus Tournament

Thurs Jan 20 Allen 1-0 Naaman Forest

The Varsity traveled to Marcus for game One of their tournament against Naaman Forest. It was obvious that they were going to play defensively and counterattack. We quickly adjusted to an attacking 3-4-3 system. Bailey Beam came close with a header from Ashley Casey's cross but it went just over the bar. We found it difficult to break them down.

Second half was the same and we panicked in front of their goal. We gambled with 10 mins remaining and put an extra forward on for a defender. With 3 mins remaining we scored Ally Johnson controlled the ball and hit a sweet volley into the far corner. We held on for a deserved win.

record: 2 wins: 1 loss: 3 ties

Fri Jan 20

Allen 2-0 Fossil Ridge 0

Allen returned for game two in the Marcus Showcase. They faced a strong Fossil Ridge team that had just lost to Marcus 1-3 the previous day. The wind blew hard down the field. We elected to defend into it and had to deal with long balls into our box. Goalie Shannon Maroney pushed a free kick around the post and then in a goalmouth scramble the defence cleared it away. We were limited to counterattacks but could not get a serious shot on frame. Towards the end of the half we went to a 4-5-1 shape to make sure that we preserved the 0-0 tie.

In the second half we attacked more. Ashley Casey had a fantastic chance when she ran through but the goalie stretched to block her. The pressure paid off with 20 mins remaining. Chloe Fowler outran their left back, cut inside but the goalie blocked it. Fowler was able to push the ball sideways and in ran Bri Horan to slot home. Our defence with goalie Nicole Limpert held firm and then ten minutes later Fowler ran on to steer the ball into the corner. We maintained possession to end up victorious and to go 2-0 in the tournament without conceding a goal.

Record: 3 wins 1 loss 3 ties

Sat Jan 21

Allen 2-2 Denton Guyer

Last game of the Marcus Tournament was on a sunny but cooler Saturday afternoon. It looked promising early but within the first 15 mins we were down two goals as they sliced open our defence and the forward ran on to slip the ball past Shannon Maroney. We were very sluggish and easily gave the ball away. Guyer should have increased their lead but we cleared it off the line and Maroney had to come out to stop them. We looked a complete shadow of the team that has played over the past 3 weeks.

At halftime we decided to go into an attacking 3-4-3 system. We bombarded their defence. Chloe Fowler scored at 34 mins but was called offside. Three mins later Ashley Casey ran through the defence but shot straight at the goalie. Ally Johnson duplicated it when she shot at the goalie and then missed just wide. At 24 mins Johnson found Spears who turned but her shot was inches wide of the far post.

We gambled with just two defenders as we could not put the ball in the net. At 14 mins the pressure finally paid off. Kaitlyn Nimitz outran them on the left side and her cross found Bailey Beam whose deflected shot spun up for her to head into the corner. A minute later we tied it. Beam got on the end of Ashley Casey's low drive from the left and coolly directed a left foot shot past defenders. It was one way traffic as we pushed forward to try to get the winner but we panicked around the goal. A disappointing game but at least we fought harder in the second half to earn a tie.

Record: 3 wins 1 loss 4 ties

Fri Jan 27th

Allen 0-2 McKinney

After a week with 5ins of rain and thunderstorms/lightning which prevented us playing The Colony on Tues/Wed, we faced cool but comfortable temperatures at Curtis Middle school, moved from the track stadium due to the boys JV tournament. We had the added bonus of 12 elementary school girls as ball girls and playing at halftime.

We started off strongly with Nimitz and Casey causing problems up front but we did not get a strong shot on goal. McKinney played a great possession game with 2 touch passing and we had to fight hard to get the ball back. On their counterattacks, our defence and goalie Nicole Limpert had to act smartly to stop shots. A bizarre incident occurred when the coaches received a yellow card as an Allen player had somehow "forgotten" to wear her shinguards !!

Limpert had to come out quickly to stop a shot at 20mins but a few mins later was powerless as the forward beat her to a tackle and tapped the ball into an empty net. It was getting increasingly difficult for us to get the ball back as we were punished for our errors. Sarah Sawyers had a great chance when Teri Todd's cross fell to her but the defender cleared. A few minutes from halftime the Lionnettes scored a fabulous goal. Starting from the back, they switched the ball with 8 passes down the right and then a 30 yard blast into the top corner.

Second half we tried to regroup and went to an attacking 3-4-3 formation. Hailey Jensen ran through but her shot was too close to the goalie and booted away. McKinney dropped 5 players back and made it difficult for us to get shots off. Goalie Shannon Moroney did not have to make a serious save all 2nd half and McKinney did a great job of time management to preserve the win

Record: 3 wins 2 loss 4 ties

Tues Jan 31 Allen 0-1 Lovejoy

A lovely evening for our final game at Ford before district starts. The grass became slicker as the dew appeared. We allowed most of the players to perform at least 25mins each . The first group went behind within the first 5 mins. We gave away a free kick on the side of the penalty area and from the cross it was headed into the far corner. We did not get a shot on goal and they hit the bar three times. The second group stepped up and Kelsey Pickrell hit two long range shots at the goalie. We still had problems in keeping possession. The third group gambled and attacked. Teri Todd could not force it home and Nimtze and Spears had shots blocked. We panicked and allowed them to take the time down for a deserved win.

Record: 3 wins 3 losses 4 ties

Thunderstorms hit the metroplex on Friday and after waiting until 9pm the game v Plano was finally cancelled . There were no officials available on Saturday due to club tournament and so the game was moved to Monday ,back at Ford.

Mon 4-2 v Plano

We quickly went 2-0 up in first 10 mins through Ally Johnson's two goals. The first came from Ashley Casey's cross when she turned and hit the ball to the post and it trickled over the line. The she took a free kick when Hailey Jensen was fouled just outside the box and chipped it into the top corner. Tori Spears then hit the crossbar with a firm shot and it looked as if more goals were to come. However Plano came back and tied it with a goal 10 mins from halftime as the player cut in from the left and then 10 mins into 2nd half with a diagonal ball and shot across Shannon Moroney.

We fought back . A corner kick with 20 mins to go from Teri Todd's was headed towards Madison Ledet. Her volley was pushed onto the bar and it dropped for Tori Spears to scramble over line. Ten mins later Alison Palomo's free kick after a foul on Ashley Casey was headed by Spears to Bailey Beam to score. We held on for victory. Praise to the defence especially Chantal Kinsey who limited dangerous Ally Murphy to only a couple of chances

Overall: 4 wins 3 losses 4 ties

District 1-0-0

Tues 2-1 v Lewisville

Twenty four hours later we traveled to Lewisville. It started well as we dealt with the Lady Farmers having all players in their half and counterattacking. However they scored from a free kick into the box and a header past Shannon Moroney with 20 mins gone in the first half.

In the 2nd half we had to be patient as they bunkered in . We attacked with more forwards and pressure paid off with 20 mins left. Katlyn Nimtze took advantage of a misdirected pass to blast into the top corner.

We continued to attack and from a couple of corners went close. Finally in last 2 mins an Ally Johnson corner was headed home by Madison Ledet. Shannon Moroney made a great save from Katie Daigle and then we cleared a free kick in the last min to record 2nd win in 2 days

Overall: 5 wins 3 losses 4 ties

District 2-0-0

Fri Feb 10

Allen 4-1 Plano East

Frigid artic air was slowly descending on Allen as the Eagles took on much improved Plano East at Ford . The Lady Panthers almost took a shock lead in the first minutes as a free kick hit the bar and was scrambled away. We soon got into a rhythm and Katlyn Nimtz ran through to have a shot denied by the goalie. We attacked from the sides and crosses were just missed . Nimtz again came close when her header from Johnson's cross hit the bar. Ashley Casey ran through but her chip deflected just wide .

After 20 mins we went ahead. Nimtz ran through and coolly hit the ball past their goalie. With 10 mins remaining it was 2-0 with a bizarre goal. A clearance rebounded off the referee and Ashley Casey ran on to cross back for Natalie Pena to slide home. We went close to adding to our total but went into the break hoping for more.

East however cut the deficit 5 mins into the 2nd half when we failed to clear a corner and the shot hit the post and trickled over the line. We were under pressure but we attacked their defence. A long range shot by Ally Johnson looked to be easily handled by their goalie but it slipped through her fingers for a 3-2 lead. Five mins later we went 4-1 up with a great goal. Casey weaved around the defence and crossed for Johnson to run in and slam home. We controled their attacks and had more chances to score.

The one blemish on the night was Tori Spears receiving two yellow cards and be unable to play in the next game. The winds picked up and the temperatures dropped as we held firm for our third win in a row.

Overall: 6 wins 3 losses 4 ties

District 3-0-0

Feb 14

Allen 0-1 Plano West

It was not a happy Valentines day to celebrate for the Lady Eagles as they lost a close fought game with nationally ranked Plano West. The rain had gone and the grass field at Clark stadium was in good shape. We had to deal with their 4-3-3 system minus Tori Spears ,with 2 yellow cards the previous game. We had to make

some defensive adjustments and were caught within 3 mins as they shot and a player tapped home but fortunately was called offside on the goal line.

After 15 mins we settled down defensively and worked on our counterattacks. We were more successful down the right side and Casey, Todd, Horan and Sawyers ran into spaces but shots were just wide. Goalie Moroney made a strong save to knock the ball around the post just before the interval and we came in at halftime tied.

After the halftime entertainment of dancing players, we mounted our best attacks. Nimitz shot was goal-bound until their goalie miraculously pushed it over the bar from point blank range. From the corner, Ledet's header was saved on the line. Ledet almost turned villain as her pass was intercepted but Moroney came to the rescue. Our defense was playing superbly and shutting down all their attacks. Bri Horan had to be carried off the field by Coach Paxton as she sprained her ankle.

It took a moment of brilliance to settle the game. With 13 mins their throw-in found their midfielder 30 yards out and she launched a 30 yard rocket that sailed into the top corner. We gambled and sent players forward but a relieved West team kept possession and earned a valuable victory. Great strides were made by our team but we came away with no points to show for our endeavors.

Overall: 6 wins 4 losses 4 ties

District 3-1-0

Feb 17

Allen 1-2 Marcus

Heartbreaking...the word to describe the final 90 seconds of a great battle with nationally ranked Marcus. A week where Allen played at a very high level and battled two of the strongest programs in the USA resulted in no points but made great strides to put Allen on the soccer map. Ninety seconds to kick the ball away, to win a tackle, to slow down the pace against a hurried opponent. They smacked the ball into the box where goalie Shannon Moroney collided with their forward and the ball agonizingly crawled over the goal-line under the suspicion of offside ... and our hearts felt heavy. We deserved points in each match but not one precious point was gained to help us in the quest for the play-offs.

In the first half we went down a goal when defender Courtney Forte hit a similar shot from 30 yards out as the Plano West forward did on Tuesday and it sailed into the top corner. The referee was to play a major role in the game with his constant whistles and calling minor fouls and irritating both sides. Moroney only had to make a couple of saves first half and our chances came from set plays where they scrambled the ball away.

In the 2nd half we relied on counterattacks. Ashley Casey took on their defenders and her left footed shot was destined for the corner until their goalie pushed it away. Yellow cards were

issued to their defenders for physical play. Casey was helped off after a bone crunching tackle left her in pain. Johnson's free kick was pushed out by the goalie and Erica Niewold turned and crossed for tori Spears to volley home.

The final 15 mins were pressured filled as we held firm and worked counterattacks. They got upset with the ref who issued them another yellow and a soft red card. Moroney made a wonder save from Mountjoy's curling free kick to push it over for a corner. However we failed to fully clear the corner kick and it bounced around outside the box for the final dagger to our hearts. Subsequent video of the game clearly shows the forward behind the goalie in the six yard box and taps the ball into the goal from an offside position with 1:20 remaining

Overall: 6 wins 5 losses 4 ties

District 3-2-0

Tues Feb 21

Allen 0-2 Hebron

The floodlights would not come on at Ford Middle school and the Junior Varsity game was called at 6:30pm. We resumed for a 2nd half of only 25 mins at the track stadium at the High school in order for the Varsity game to start on time. We faced a strong wind first half but it helped to slow the ball. Ashley Casey's speed was a persistent threat and she crossed for Katlyn Nimtze to volley just past the post. Casey then had an attempt just miss and Bailey Beam hit a shot over the bar. Our defence dealt with their shots, one long range shot hit the bar and was picked up by Moroney. She had to dive to make a save from a cross shot but we entered halftime all square.

Within 5 mins we were behind. A free kick was played wide and then crossed into the box. As our defenders appealed for offside, she coolly tapped home. It unsettled us and we panicked as we tried to get back into the game. Casey had the best opportunity but shot just wide. Fifteen mins from the end they went two up. The forward ran onto a through ball down the left side. She cut back in and fired a shot that Moroney parried but a player chipped the rebound into the net. They easily defended their lead and we left frustrated after losing three close games. Next up Flower Mound with players from the metroplex all missing due to ECNL commitments with their clubs in San Antonio

Overall: 6 wins 6 losses 4 ties

District 3-3-0

Fri Feb 24

Allen 0-2 Flower Md

We traveled to Flower Mound minus four players that were in San Antonio in the ECNL club tournament. Our opponent too had players missing but their squad was all seniors except for one sophomore.

In the first 10 mins we attacked their defence. Casey went through but as she went to shoot her standing foot misdirected the ball. From a corner Nimtz controlled but tamely shot at the goalie. Then at 10 mins Nimtz ran 40 yards into the box where she was fouled for a penalty kick. Up stepped Cami Wylie but her shot hit the post. A minute later against the run of play Flower Mound went ahead. Their forward turned and outran our defenders to steer past Limpert. They almost went further ahead with a cross that missed everyone. Limpert came to the rescue with a brave dive at a forward's feet.

Our early confidence was slowly draining and we panicked into sending hopeful long range shots at the goalie. Whenever we had a free kick or corner there was no-one on the end to steer home. Calton's little flick just went over the bar. With 10 mins remaining of the 1st half they went further ahead. A long free kick into the box was steered home with no-one close to marking the two forwards. Limpert had to come out to dive as the forward broke through to prevent any further damage.

Second half we looked to attack more in a 3-4-3 system but did not have one shot trouble their goalie. Casey outran the defender but her shot was a yard wide. Our defence and especially Limpert had to constantly deal with counterattacks to keep the score at 0-2. We lived dangerously defensively but were disappointing in our counterattacks.

Overall: 6 wins 7 losses 4 ties

District 3-4-0 5th place

Tues Feb 28th

Allen 2-1 Plano

We traveled to Clark stadium for the start of the second round of district games. The wind was blowing down the field and we had it to our backs first half. We had to adjust as we planned to mark Ally Murphy . their dangerous midfielder, but she was on the bench for the first 20 mins. We went to 3 attackers to try to get an important goal. A free kick by Ally Johnson was inches over the bar. Casey sent long range shots at the goalie who bobbed them but no-one put her under pressure. Cami Wylie blasted a shot which she again mishandled but recovered. Spears sent in a free kick but no-one was on the end of it. Murphy entered the game and ran through

but her shot was pushed away by Moroney. We ended the half with Calton miskicking the ball wide of the goal and halftime was tied.

The second half saw Murphy run through but shot at Moroney. At 35 mins she put them ahead. The ball bounced over our defenders and she was chased by Palomo but her shot found the top corner as Moroney pushed it onto the post but it bounced into the goal. The wind started to howl and a difficult 2nd half became a test. We immediately thought that we had equalized. Johnson's free kick bounced for Casey to flick over the goalie but she was called offside. Moroney came to the rescue several times, punching the ball over the bar and diving to stop shots on goal.

With 20 mins remaining, we tied it up. Johnson fed Casey down the right. She cut in and crossed to the middle of the goal. Hailey Jensen controlled the ball, cut to her left and delivered a sweet shot into the far corner. Moroney and the defence held firm under intense pressure. Murphy's 45 yard free kick was inches over the bar. With a minute left we went ahead. Cami Wylie cut in from the left and crossed into the box where Spears steered it onto the far post and into the net. A minute later we were celebrating two valuable points under difficult conditions.

Overall: 7 wins 7 losses 4 ties

District 4-4-0 5th place

Fri March 2nd

Allen 3-1 Lewisville

A new look Lewisville arrived at Ford stadium minus their two top players who were no longer on the team. However they were prepared to stay in their own half, frustrate and counterattack. We almost went ahead in the first 30 seconds when Casey's cross was shot onto the bar by Bailey Beam. Pena's header from a corner kick just went wide, and several crosses were either cleared or hit the side netting.

Lewisville were camped in their own half and prepared to absorb pressure. Goalie Moroney did not touch the ball for 20 mins and it was from back passes from her defence. Casey hit two shots goal-bound but their goalie saved easily. She misplaced one shot but they cleared it under heavy pressure. Johnson almost headed the ball in from Pena's cross but the goalie and defender scrambled it away. We should have been awarded a penalty kick when Casey was bumped by the goalie but it was not called. In a 30 second span, Casey's chip was headed off the line and Wylie's shot was pushed around the post by the goalie. Teri Todd almost put us ahead but her shot hit the bar and bounced down just short of the line.

In the 2nd half it was the same story. We wondered when the opening goal would arrive. Hailey Jenson slammed the ball against the post and both Johnson and Casey scooped their shots over the bar. We finally went ahead with 25 mins to go. It looked as if Spears had handled the ball in our box but it was not called. She cleared it upfield where Johnson won the ball from the defender, dribbled in and worked a give and go with Casey to hammer the ball into the goal.

Casey was put through by Kinsey but shot wide. Chloe Fowler came on for her first appearance in 6 weeks due to an ankle injury and caused problems. Casey sprinted down the left and her cross was blazed over the open goal by an in-rushing Pena. We doubled our lead with 8 mins remaining. Allison Palomo delivered the ball to Casey who turned and dribbled to shoot from outside the box. It took a slight deflection to send the goalie the wrong way.

We should have cruised to an easy win...but we gave away a free kick and they took advantage of a failure to clear to cut a goal back. However with 3 mins left Johnson passed the ball to Fowler who cut in and hit a sweet right foot shot past the goalie to seal the victory.

Overall: 8 wins 7 losses 4 ties
District 5-4-0 5th place

Mon March 5th

Allen 2-1 Plano East

It was Senior night at Kimborough stadium but moreover two important points were up for grabs for the 5th and 6th placed teams. The wind had died down as the game began. Allen were the more attacking team and Casey and Nimtz were pressuring the defenders. Johnson's free kick narrowly missed the mark. At 20 mins we went ahead from a corner kick. Johnson's precise cross found the head of Ledet to power it past the goalie. Our defence easily controlled any attacks and we should have increased our lead.

The second half saw a more aggressive East team and within 7 mins had tied it when their forward ran through to shoot past Moroney. It was a shock to us but we gradually worked our way into their half with controlled passes. A defensive mix-up with 20 mins left saw Natalie Pena turn and blast the ball into the goal. We held strong defensively to earn the win, guarantee 5th

place and set our sights on wins and ties with the top four to try to make play-offs

Overall: 9 wins 7 losses 4 ties
District 6-4-0 5th place

Fri March 9th

Allen 1-1 Plano West

Fit to be tied: Moroney, Allen secure crucial point by holding off late West charge

BY Kevin Hageland, khageland@starlocalnews.com

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ALLEN -- After 10 district matches, only two teams had taken a point off the Plano West girls soccer team (8-1-2).

Allen (6-4-1) made it three Friday night with a 1-1 draw.

"We said going into these last four games that we needed ties and wins," said Kevin Albury, Allen head coach. "We know Plano West is one of the best teams in the nation, but we realized after our first game against them that we could play with this team and we proved that tonight."

Helping prove that point was senior keeper Shannon Moroney.

"I'll give it to their goalie, she was on tonight," said Sparky Fischer, West junior. "So props to her."

Moroney was diving across the box Friday, making plenty of saves, but none was bigger than her stop in the 71st minute. After a crisp give-and-go between West sophomore Jalynn Barron and junior Brooke Ramsier, the ball made its way to senior Logan Beal. She dished it to junior Casie Ramsier, who was then stuffed by Moroney. A foul was called though and a penalty kick neither coach agreed with was awarded.

"I still think that was a very poor decision," Albury said. "We got clobbered on that play and still, none of the officials can really explain to me what the call was."

It didn't cost the Lady Eagles though as Moroney made the penalty kick save.

"That was a little bit of redemption for us right there," Albury said.

Stifling Casie on that shot, Moroney would stop her twin Brooke in the 79th minute to

essentially finalize the 1-1 result.

"We feel like this was a game we could've won and should've won," said Carley Phillips, West head coach. "We didn't finish our chances and give [Moroney] some credit for that. She did a good job tonight and really used her size and length to stop us."

Albury concurred.

"Moroney played really well tonight," he said.

While Moroney made plenty of saves, she didn't stop all the shots from tickling the twine Friday as West took a 1-0 lead with 27:12 remaining in the game.

Junior Taylor Barg got things going with a steal near midfield and dished it off to Fischer, who then sent it in to Tori Gates. The sophomore's shot in the 6-yard box was stopped by Moroney, but senior Natalie Gibson was there for the put-back goal.

"We talked to the girls about continuing to attack since Allen was basically sitting back," Phillips said. "We told the girls to get behind their forwards and we were able to do that on the goal."

Barg, who dominated the midfield, was nearly part of another goal in the 60th minute as her 30-yard free kick was online, but punched over the bar by Moroney.

"Taylor got a lot of time and space tonight," Phillips said. "And when you give someone as talented as that time and space, then she is dangerous."

But it's not always the dangerous chances that lead to goals.

Allen proved as much with 24:01 remaining when sophomore Chantal Kinsey sent a ball in from 40 yards. The ball bounced just past its intended target, but kept rolling and made its way between Fischer and Lady Wolves junior keeper Claire Wheatley for the equalizer.

"It just looked like pure miscommunication," Phillips said.

It was.

"Me and the keeper are both to blame on that one," Fischer said. "We didn't talk and the ball got through."

That allowed Allen to tie it up after trailing for just 3:11.

"Last year I think we got frightened in situations like this, but not this year," Albury said. "When the girls get behind, they don't get scared, they continue to fight because they believe we can compete with anyone."

The second half was more back-and-forth than the first, which was controlled by West despite a

pair of solid chances from Allen junior Ally Johnson.

"We lost (senior) Ashley Casey, so we knew we would have to take a more tactical approach and be more counter attacking," Albury said. "At halftime we told our forwards that they would have to be our first line of defenders because in the first half you could see some times where they just sort of stood there and watched."

There were no goals to be had in the final 24 minutes, leading to a 1-1 draw.

Both teams get a week off for Spring Break with West now tied for first place in 8-5A with Flower Mound while Allen is three points back of Hebron for the district's final playoff spot with three games to go. The Lady Wolves are back in action at 7:45 p.m. March 20 when they host Hebron at Clark Stadium while the Lady Eagles are on the road against Flower Mound Marcus at the same time.

"In any other district, we'd be in the top two," Albury said. "These girls are kind of quiet, but they are always competitive and they know that we belong, so we are going to keep the faith and keep supporting each other heading into these last three games."

Overall: 9 wins 7 losses 5 ties

District 6-4-1 5th place

Tues March 20

Allen 0-1 Marcus.

Spring Break was over and three important district games were ahead of us.

Thunderstorms had pummeled the metroplex for 24 hours but it had lightened up for our district game to go ahead. We were three points behind Hebron with 3 remaining games and needed at least a point at Marcus. We decided to play defensively and counterattack in a 3-2-4-1 formation. Marcus had problems penetrating our midfield and defence. Goalie Moroney had little to do as for the first half we frustrated them. However we did not put much together offensively except in the final minutes of the first half with Wylie taking on three defenders but failed to convert and their goalie easily covered any shots. Hail and rain hammered down on players and spectators the final 20 mins of the first half which made soccer difficult.

Second half we planned to play the same way but within 10 mins we were behind. A hopeful lobbed ball into the box fell between Kinsey and Jensen and Murphy nipped into place the ball past Moroney. We adjusted to put an additional attacker on. We thought we had equalized five mins later. A free kick by Johnson dipped over the wall and skipped past the goalie but our jubilation were quickly ended when the referee's upraised arm indicated it was an indirect kick and had narrowly missed their goalie's arm. It was a let off for Marcus and they made sure that our attacks were quickly snuffed out. Defensively we played the offside trap to perfection and threw players forward but could not get an equalizer and an important point. Hebron lost to Plano West which meant that Friday's game was a must win against the Hawks to stay in the hunt.

Overall: 9 wins 8 losses 5 ties

District 6-5-1 5th place

Fri March 23

Allen0-4 Hebron

It was play-off atmosphere at Hebron. Allen had to win to stay in with a chance while Hebron just needed a tie. It was a warm evening but it suddenly got cold for us as we went behind within five mins as a through ball dissected the defence and dangerous #19 hit a left footed shot against the post and into the net . Moroney came out to save from a cross and was knocked to ground but quickly got up. Tackles were flying in as the game became more competitive. Johnson was brought down as we broke on a 3 on 3 to earn them the first yellow card of the night. Nimtz was impeded as she ran onto the ball and from Johnson's free kick Ledet headed just over the bar. Moroney produced a fantastic save as she pushed a shot onto the post and it was scrambled away. The half finished fairly even but we knew we had to create more chances 2nd half.

We went to a 3-4-3 formation . Cool heads were needed as tension rose but we had girls receive yellow cards as they disputed decisions. Within 10 mins of the 2nd half we went further behind. Ledet's clearance was blocked and as the forward ran through Kinsey just missed the ball and brought her down for a penalty kick . Morney could not reproduce her pk magic from the West game and the ball went into the corner.

It was an uphill climb now as Hebron played controlled experienced soccer from years of play-off level matches. We let our emotions get out of hand and as we pushed forward they scored two more goals. It was a bitterly disappointing time as the clock ticked down but the four teams from our district (Flower Md. Marcus , West and Hebron) move on to the playoffs as worthy challengers. We were simply not good enough against the top four this year. (0 wins , 6 losses and 1 tie... 2 goals for 13 against) We competed at a higher level but their experience brought them victory. We played many teams to prepare ourselves pre-season..teams that were nationally ranked, that won state championships, top 2 in their district and going to play-offs but we earned ourselves the reputation as one of the best teams not to make it to the next round. We have improved over the past 2 years but need to take it to another level in the new district and region the next 2 years.

Overall: 9 wins 9 losses 5 ties
District 6-6-1 5th place

**Tues March 27,
Allen1-4 Flower Mound**

It was a lovely warm evening to celebrate a season but moreover the seniors . Photographs were taken with the Eagle inflatable head and then at the halfway line in front of other varsity and JV players. We had 18 seniors to get into the game and we kicked off to Kendall Hart, injured all year, to kick out of bounds and have a warm round of applause. Within 5 mins Flower Mound were ahead with a ball to the back post that was hit wide of Moroney. It was even for the rest of the half as we trade shots. We substituted the seniors with the remaining seniors and other Juniors with 20 mins left and almost tied the game up.

At halftime a new group , mostly sophomores, played 20 mins. Limpert was active in the goal and made several key saves. The final 20 mins saw the starting seniors return. With 12 mins remaining a cross rebounded off Todd to a player to hit home. Flower Mound had a district title in mind while we decided to have some fun. Goalie Moroney and midfielder Wylie traded places. Wylie took forever to get her shirt and gloves on as everyone laughed . However she could not stop a thunderbolt shot that hit the underside of the bar and in. Then she tried to stop a shot with her feet. In the last minute, Nimtz was tripped in the box and Moroney hit the ball against the goalie and it trickled in for a goal. Celebrations for Flower Mound's first title and for Allen's seniors.

Overall: 9 wins 10 losses 5 ties

District 6-7-1 5th place

Final standings

	W	L	T	Pts
Flower				
Md	11	1	2	24
Marcus	11	2	1	23
Plano				
West	10	2	2	22
Hebron	9	5	0	18
Allen	6	7	1	13
Plano	3	11	0	6
Plano				
East	3	11	0	6
Lewisville	0	14	0	0