

BOAL: Harvard-Westlake girls' soccer senior plays on with torn ACL

By Erik Boal, columnist

Updated: 03/02/2010 10:03:19 AM PST

» Nick Green's 100 Percent Soccer blog

Donilyn Hunter-Sallustio's goal wasn't to come back and score the winning goal in a Southern Section Div. II girls' soccer playoff match.

The Harvard-Westlake of Studio City senior had already met her objective simply by being back on the field in the postseason.

Hunter-Sallustio, who scored off a Haley Boysen corner kick in the 60th minute of Friday's 1-0 quarterfinal victory at Laguna Hills, suffered a partial ACL tear in her left knee in a Dec. 18 match against San Clemente. Wolverines coach Richard Simms feared he had lost his talented forward for the season.

But Hunter-Sallustio had other ideas.

Going against the suggestion of her doctor, Hunter-Sallustio decided to postpone surgery until after the season, instead choosing to participate in rigorous physical therapy in an attempt to rehabilitate her knee in time to compete the playoffs. With the support of a large

brace, she returned to the lineup Feb. 10 to help the Wolverines to a 2-0 win at Chaminade of West Hills in their regular-season finale.

"I really didn't care what (doctors) said, I wasn't going to listen to them anyway," Hunter-Sallustio said. "I was going on how I felt and what I wanted to do. If I was going to get surgery, I'd rather deal with the pain now and wait to do it after the season."

Although Hunter-Sallustio's decision was a personal one, her motivation was anything but selfish. The four-year varsity standout wanted to repay her teammates and coaches for their encouragement and support while she was on the sidelines.

"It's not even for me, it's for this team," Hunter-Sallustio said. "I would do anything to help them progress in this tournament. It was my desire and willpower to lead this team that helped me make it back."

The USC-bound Boysen, another four-year varsity athlete, said Hunter-Sallustio's return has given Harvard-Westlake (19-1-3) additional motivation to return to the Div. II final - with a semifinal victory today over Redlands East Valley - and capture the program's first section title since 2002.

"I am so happy Doni is back because she is one of the toughest and most intimidating players I know," Boysen said. "She is someone you can always count on to get the cross off or to win a

Advertisement

Kodak

IF YOU'RE NOT PRINTING ON A KODAK ESP ALL-IN-ONE PRINTER, CHANCES ARE
YOU'RE PAYING TOO MUCH FOR INK.

FIND OUT HOW MUCH YOU'RE OVERPAYING FOR INK AT PRINTANDPROSPER.COM

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™



50/50 ball."

Despite the Wolverines being ranked

No. 6 in the state and 12th nationally by ESPN/Rise Magazine, Simms said Hunter-Sallustio's toughness is what Harvard-Westlake needs to build on its seven-match winning streak.

"I might not have the skill of a Haley Boysen or a Katie Speidel, but what I'm all about is refusing to lose," Hunter-Sallustio said. "I'm going to work as hard as I can for as long as I can in order to get the win. In the playoffs, it's not all about skill, it's about who wants it more. I want to be there to motivate everyone and do whatever I can to make sure we beat the other team."

At this point, no one is betting against the 5-foot-4 Hunter-Sallustio, or the Wolverines.

"To score in a playoff game, it felt really good," Hunter-Sallustio said. "But it wasn't just about the goal, it was about being out there celebrating with my teammates. It's not about who scores or who we beat or how we get there, we just want to have that title. We want to have something for people to remember us by."

Corsos part of NCAA record

Before Richard and Meghan Corso could return to Berkeley on Sunday, the Cal women's water polo coach and his daughter had their departure delayed after participating in the longest match

in NCAA history.

Cal lost 7-6 to UCLA in eight overtimes in the third-place match at the UCIrvine Invitational, with Meghan Corso,

a 2006 Agoura graduate, scoring twice and Richard Corso - formerly the head of the boys' and girls' water polo programs at Harvard-Westlake of Studio City - suffering one of his toughest losses in more than

30 years of coaching.

KK Clark's goal with 1:07 left in the sixth sudden-death overtime was the difference for No. 3 UCLA (12-4), more than 16 minutes after No. 4 Cal (12-4) tied the score 6-6 during the second three-minute extra period.

The Corso family will return to their hometown Friday when the Golden Bears compete in the Cal Lutheran tournament. Cal will play a Mountain Pacific Sports Federation match Saturday at No. 2 USC (10-5), before concluding the tournament Sunday.

Chaminade's Zymkowitz leads Illini to

NFCA Leadoff Classic championship

The Illinois softball team capped a perfect five-game run at the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Leadoff Classic with a 7-4 victory over Arkansas in Columbus, Ga.

Advertisement



Bring the Classroom to Your Home
With a Degree Online From Florida Tech

Florida Tech
UNIVERSITY ONLINE

APPLY TODAY!
FloridaTechOnline.com/FD | 1-888-253-5946



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™



A big reason for the Illini winning the tournament Sunday was the performance of second baseman Danielle Zymkowitz, a 2007 Chaminade of West Hills graduate.

Zymkowitz, who leads Illinois (14-1) with a .451 average, went six for 15 in the three-day tournament with four runs and four RBIs. The junior has 13 runs, seven RBIs and eight stolen bases for the Illini, who captured the title over No. 6 Missouri (8-2) - also 5-0 in the tournament - based on run differential.

A clash of champions in the pool

One of the top dual meets of the girls' high school swim season takes place at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Westlake High, when Hart of Newhall takes on the host Warriors in a battle of teams that have combined to win the past three Southern Section Div. II titles.

Westlake won in 2007 and took runner-up to Hart in 2008. The Warriors captured the crown again last season, with the Indians finishing second after moving up to Div. I.

Advertisement



Florida Tech
UNIVERSITY ONLINE

**Bring the Classroom to Your Home
With a Degree Online From Florida Tech**

APPLY TODAY!
FloridaTechOnline.com/FD | 1-888-253-5946



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™