



Harvard-Westlake girls' soccer gets shot at redemption

By Erik Boal, Special to the Daily News

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Harvard-Westlake of Studio City's recent emphasis has been on finishing, not only on its scoring chances, but on its journey toward capturing a Southern Section Div. II girls' soccer title.

Katie Speidel took care of one aspect Tuesday against visiting Redlands East Valley. The Wolverines hope to complete the other part of the equation this weekend.

Speidel scored Harvard-Westlake's first goal in each half and set up first-half scores by Danielle Duhl and Nikki Goren to help the top-seeded Wolverines return to the division final with a 4-0 semifinal win.

"This is all for the team. Everyone here wants it so bad and I just want to do my part," said Speidel, who has four goals and four assists in four postseason matches.

"My teammates are doing all the work by putting the ball in a position for me to score. I'm doing the easy part."

Against a Wildcats team that hadn't surrendered

more than two goals in a match this season, Speidel made it look easy, before being substituted out early in the second half to prepare for a finals showdown with No. 3 Beckman of Irvine (19-2-1).

Playing at home for the first time since a 7-0 opening-round victory Feb. 19 over Burroughs of Burbank, Harvard-Westlake (20-1-3) was a step ahead of the Wildcats (26-4) from the start.

"We're a pretty explosive team when we want to be," Wolverines coach Richard Simms said. "We had some very similar chances against Laguna Hills (in a 1-0 quarterfinal victory Friday), but their keeper made some big saves. (Tuesday) we didn't give their keeper much of a chance. They were all good soccer goals."

USC-bound senior Haley Boysen, who set up Speidel's goal in the 49th minute, was grateful to get another shot at a title after losing 2-1 to Saugus in last year's final.

"I'm really happy we're in the finals and that we get to play for a CIF championship," Boysen said. "This is what we've wanted the entire season."

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