

Tri-Center 1, Denison 0
Denison falls to 2-3-1 this season

Shots: Tri-Center 39, Denison 4
Shots on goal: Tri-Center 17, Denison 2
Saves: Belinda Pancho had 16 saves in goal for the Lady Monarchs
Halftime score: Tied 0-0

Comments by Coach Eller: "Tri-Center has a very good, very aggressive team that controls the ball and possession very well. They beat us to almost all the 50/50 balls, were much better at winning the ball in the air than we are, they switch the fields very well, they can pass accurately with both feet, and they take shots when they have space to shoot. They play physical, but legally physical soccer. They really understand passing the ball to where they want their teammate to go, not where they are. They are ranked #8 in the state in 1A soccer and have played a very tough schedule, beating some very good teams. So, we played defense 95% of the game, but we played defense very well except for 3-4 possessions. We dodged a couple of bullets when they had 1 on 1 shots with Belinda that they didn't put on goal. Belinda had a magnificent night in goal with some tough saves and some of the saves were on shots from inside of 10 yards. Their goal came with 6:57 remaining in the match off of a throw-in that we were late matching up with. They played quickly and hit a forward in stride running the left sideline. She got around our defender near the corner and dribbled the goal line area. Our help defense didn't shift over far enough to stop the ball, instead settling by the near post and allowing her to take shots from way too close. Their player took a 5 yard shot that Belinda saved, got the rebound and took a 6 yard shot that Belinda saved. The rebound again went to the same player and she dribbled around 1 defender and hit the shot from 8 yards out just under the crossbar. We played with fire long enough and eventually got burned. I would consider this game a moral victory. We hung with a great team, who only lost 1-0 to Lewis Central. Michelle Palma had a phenomenal game marking up their leading scorer, who has 10 goals already this season, and shutting her out on the night. Our team defense and marking up was much improved compared to the Lewis Central game, so we can be very proud of that. We had 5 players either sick or left the game with injuries, so we weren't as deep as we have been in our other games. The girls who played all played a lot of minutes and gave very good effort. I really believe if we would have been at full strength, we could have ended in a 0-0 tie because fatigue was a factor in the last 10 minutes. Offensively, we continue to struggle connecting passes, receiving passes and passing through gaps in the defense. It seemed like all of our counters ended up with us passing the ball right to their players or kicking the ball out of bounds. We have made some improvements so far this season, but we can continue to work to get better - especially passing more quickly & more accurately and controlling the ball".