

Denison 2, Harlan 0

Denison improves to 3-3-1 this season and 3-1 in the Hawkeye 10

Shots: Harlan 26, Denison 11  
Shots on goal: Harlan 20, Denison 7  
Saves: Belinda Pancho had 19 saves in goal for the Lady Monarchs and Giana Garcia had 1 save as a defender for the Lady Monarchs  
Halftime score: Denison 1, Harlan 0

Goals: 1) Jocelyn Serrato scored her 3rd goal of the season, assisted by Alejandra Cardenas (2nd assist of season) with 16:26 remaining in the 1st half. Xochi Arellano stole the ball from a Cyclone midfielder 38 yards out and passed the ball wide to Alejandra 23 yards out on the right wing. Alejandra dropped the ball to Jocelyn 28 yards out near the right sideline. Jocelyn dribbled around 2 Cyclone defenders and hit the shot from 10 yards out on the right hash marks into the left side net with their goalkeeper coming out to challenge her.

2) Alejandra Cardenas scored her 2nd goal of the season, assisted by Jocelyn Serrato (2nd assist of season) and Xochi Arellano (3rd assist of season) with 2:42 remaining in the match. Harlan nearly scored following a corner kick and put a shot just wide of the right post. Jocelyn took the goal kick and kicked it 44 yards in the air, which was over the heads of all the Cyclone defenders except their sweeper. Xochi sprinted and beat Harlan's sweeper to the ball 51 yards from the goal. Xochi 1 touched a switch from the left hash marks to the right side of the field to Alejandra 40 yards out. Alejandra pushed the ball forward 20 yards and hit the 1 on 1 shot from 20 yards out through their keeper's hands just inside the right post.

Comments by Coach Eller: "This game was a great team win and a great defensive win! I was told Denison hadn't beaten Harlan in girls soccer since 2018, so our girls have a lot to be proud of. Harlan has a lot of good athletes and they find them with good passing. Our midfield and defense did a great job of keeping everything in front of us and staying out of long sprints, preventing 1 on 1s with Belinda. Also, we did a great job of marking up on all 7 attackers once we figured out their attack. Michelle Palma had another great game marking their best forward. Giana Garcia, Angie Gutierrez, Jocelyn Serrato, Nadia Medina, Itzel Palma, Xochi Arellano, Keily Rodriguez and Olivia DeVore did a great job of marking up their other 6 attackers. Sicara Arevalo had a great game shutting down the middle of the field between the posts. Belinda Pancho was an all-star tonight in goal. She caught their hard shots cleanly and really took ownership of her goal box with great talking and calling off her defenders for the ball. Offensively, we struggled to possess again and got into kickball and long ball mode too much. Both of our goals were the result of stringing together 2 passes consecutively and moving the ball quickly from 1 side of the field to the other. This game showed that the girls are really starting to get it, especially the team defensive concept. The thought process was better on offense tonight as well, but the touches are still a work in progress. However, this was a great conference win and a great rivalry win! It shows the girls that trusting in each other does work as we have the girls who are all capable of doing her job".