

Lewis Central 8, Denison 0

Denison falls to 1-1 this season and 1-1 in the Hawkeye 10 Conference

Shots: LC 40, Denison 1
Shots on goal: LC 25, Denison 1
Saves: Roslyn Velasquez had 17 saves in goal for the Lady Monarchs

Comments by Coach Eller: "LC is a fantastic soccer team that made the final 4 in the state tournament last year. They possess the ball very well as their girls can use either foot and they control the ball very well with their 1st touch being right at their feet instead of a few yards away from them. Their D-1 player, Hana Daoudi, scored 4 goals and she shoots the ball with as much power as most boys I've coached or coached against. She is a special player. We were down 3-0 just 3:45 into the game and it didn't look like the game was going to last very long. We gave up a 4th goal just over 10 minutes into the game. Then, we came alive and played good defense the rest of the game. We hadn't really been pushed defensively in our scrimmages or in our 1st game. That was obvious as we weren't aggressive to the ball, lost track of who we were assigned to and didn't challenge their players when the ball was at their feet. I mixed some things up and in hindsight I should have started the game the way we defended the rest of the game. Whitlee Auen marked up Daoudi and did a great job on her. Dehisy Merida marked up Gracie Hays, who scored 2 goals early, and shut her out the rest of the game. The rest of the team quit chasing the ball and stayed marked up better. We fronted their players earlier and didn't give them space to get shots off. In the last almost 70 minutes, we only gave up 4 goals to one of the best teams in the state and most likely the best team we will face all season. The goals we gave up were rocket shots from 25 yards, 30 yards, 25 yards and 18 yards out. We didn't give up any shots in close during the last 70 minutes. Our defensive improvement from the beginning of the game to the end of the game was tremendous. Roslyn Velasquez had a fantastic game in goal and I could hear her communicating from our bench, which is what we need to have. Our lack of shots taken is completely on me. I went with a lineup of only 1 forward with 9 focusing on defending their attackers. When we did possess the ball, we weren't able to sustain a counter long enough to create shots. I will have to adjust that in the future. However, I had 1 goal for the team and that was to play 80 minutes by not giving up 10 goals to a powerhouse soccer team. We accomplished that goal and this game will help us become a better defensive team for the rest of the season. The girls could have folded after digging a big hole after only 10 minutes. Our team competed the entire game and I'm really proud of the effort and competitiveness our girls showed tonight".