

Denison 3, Storm Lake 2  
Denison improves to 4-3-1 this season

Shots: Denison 19, Storm Lake 12  
Shots on goal: Denison 8, Storm Lake 8  
Saves: Belinda Pancho had 8 saves in goal for the Lady Monarchs  
Halftime score: Denison 3, Storm Lake 2

Goals: 1) Storm Lake scored with 30:47 remaining in the 1st half on a counter after stealing the ball from the Lady Monarchs following a throw-in. Storm Lake took a shot that was deflected back to the middle and the Storm Lake forward hit the shot just inside the left post.

2) Jocelyn Serrato scored her 4th goal of the season, assisted by Michelle Palma (1st assist of the season) with 29:14 remaining in the 1st half. Michelle dropped a corner kick short to Jocelyn 18 yards out on the right wing. Jocelyn 1 touched the shot just under the crossbar.

3) Alejandra Aragon scored her 2nd goal of the season, assisted by Michelle Palma (2nd assist of the season), with 20:10 remaining in the 1st half. Michelle took a corner kick and placed the ball perfectly into the box where Alejandra volleyed the ball out of the air from 5 yards out into the back of the net.

4) Michelle Palma scored her 3rd goal of the season, assisted by Alejandra Cardenas (3rd assist of the season), with 17:24 remaining in the 1st half. Alejandra fought hard to win the ball in the air on the left sideline at the 50 yard line and centered a pass to Alejandra Aragon 35 yards out. Aragon passed back to Cardenas on a give and go, then Cardenas switched the ball across the field to 18 yards out where Michelle ran the ball down and hit the shot from 15 yards out even with the right post, just inside the left post.

5) Storm Lake scored on a counter with 7:04 remaining in the 1st half following a steal off a Lady Monarch throw-in where the Denison midfield was pushed way too far up and offered no help defending the Storm Lake counter.

Comments by Coach Eller: "It was half a good game and half a bad game on both sides of the ball. Offensively, we played very well in the 1st half using the whole field, passing to control possession, winning the ball in the air and creating good shots. 2 of our 3 goals came right after one of our girls won the ball in the air instead of letting the ball hit the ground, so it's good to see that working on that paid off tonight. However, we got too greedy and pushed up too far leaving huge gaps between the midfield and the defense leading to both of their goals and nearly a 3rd goal. In the 2nd half, we shut them out and played very good defense except for a couple of mistakes. But, we couldn't connect on passes again due to bad touch after bad touch, got into kickball mode, shoved the ball down the middle and refused to use the whole field. So, we didn't create many shots in the 2nd half because playing soccer like that is super easy to defend. We need to find that balance of pushing up on offense to the right levels, not having 7 girls that think they are playing forward when we attack. At the same time, being in the right

place to help out on offense while being able to get back on defense and help out our defenders. It's been a while since we've played a game where we controlled possession and also had to worry about getting back, and we forgot all about our spacing and our levels on offense tonight. We have to remember that we need to get back when the other team counters, and we can't get back quickly enough if we are pushed up the field 20 or 30 yards too high. We did enough to win, but we made it too easy for their talented players up top. We are improving, but we haven't put it all together yet. I'm happy for the girls that we got the win. I know winning this game means a lot to the team".