

East Sac County 1, Denison 0  
1st round of the Lady Monarch tournament  
Denison falls to 4-4-1 this season

Shots: Denison 15, East Sac County 14  
Shots on goal: Denison 11, East Sac County 10  
Saves: Belinda Pancho had 8 saves in goal and Andrea Alcaraz had 1 save as a defender for the Lady Monarchs  
Halftime score: East Sac County 1, Denison 0

Goal: East Sac County scored with 33:09 remaining in the 1st half on a counter following a steal from the Lady Monarchs clearing the ball. ESC stole the ball 58 yards from the goal and played the ball to the right sideline 42 yards out, centered a pass to 38 yards out and then a perfect diagonal pass from the numbers on the right side of the field to the left post 13 yards out led to a 50/50 ball between their forward and goalkeeper Belinda Pancho. Both players got their foot on the ball, but ESC's forward got the rebound from the joust and finished the 1 on 1 with the Lady Monarch defender from 10 yards out.

Comments by Coach Eller: "Even though we beat Storm Lake and lost to ESC, we played so much better today in the loss than we played last night in the win. We came out sluggish and tentative, so ESC dominated the 1st 15 minutes with 6 shots to our 1 and they got the only goal of the match in that time. For the last 65 minutes, we controlled possession and outshot them 14 to 8. Both teams played very solid defense after the goal was scored. We created chances, but all of our shots on goal were right to their goalkeeper as we didn't make her work for any saves. We also weren't able to get by them in the countless 1 on 1s that our good passing created, often making a pass in that situation that ended up getting stolen, or we would have had many more shots than 15. Their goal was a perfect storm of several mistakes on our part followed by a perfect pass on their part. We started off the play by giving away possession by playing kickball on the back end when we had time and a wide open midfielder 15 yards in front of us. Then, we chased the ball instead of marking up and vacated the middle of the field, allowing them to center the pass. Our defense was up too high, our mids weren't between their mark and our goal, and we weren't in the correct position away from the ball on the back side of the field. We were too locked up on the back side player 45 yards away from the ball and not close enough to the middle to close down the middle gap between our back side defender and middle defender. ESC made a perfect diagonal pass through that gap and we just weren't in position to beat them to the ball. After that, we played good enough defense but offense continues to be a struggle. We don't have enough players with a scorer's mentality who want the ball in the 1 on 1 situations because she wants to take the shot. We have too many players who look to make a pass when she has a 1 on 1. In soccer, nobody can create a better situation than a 1 on 1 against teams that don't gamble on defense. ESC did a great job of playing a solid defensive base and keeping everything in front of them. It comes down to having confidence in yourself and trusting the work that you put in growing up and in practice".