

SBL 4, Denison 1
1st round Class 2A Region 8
Denison ends their season 7-9-2

Shots: Denison 19, SBL 16
Shots on goal: Denison 13, SBL 12
Saves: Alejandra Aragon had 8 saves in goal for the Lady Monarchs
Halftime score: Tied 1-1

Goals: Itzel Palma scored her 2nd goal of the season, assisted by Andrea Alcaraz (1st assist of season) with 32:31 remaining in the 1st half. Michelle Palma took a corner kick and played it to Xochi Arellano near the 10 yard line on the left sideline. Xochi dropped a pass to Andrea Alcaraz on the 20 yard line near the left sideline. Andrea centered a ball to Itzel at the 10 yard line in the center of the field. Itzel brought the ball down, got around 1 defender and hit the shot from 15 yards out just inside the right post into the side net.

SBL scored with 28:33 left in the 1st half on a 10 yard 1 touch shot from the right wing, off a corner kick.

SBL scored with 32:43 remaining in the match on a switch from the left sideline to the right post finding an unmarked player running the right wing and hitting the shot from 10 yards out.

SBL scored with 25:25 remaining in the match after a throw-in on the right sideline that bounced in the box twice and a Denison player couldn't get a foot on the ball, so a SBL forward finished the shot from 8 yards out in the middle of the field.

SBL scored with 21:33 remaining in the match on a switch that went through the hands of Aragon and was finished 2 yards from the goal.

Comments by Coach Eller: "SBL did a great job of switching fields and finishing their opportunities. We created more opportunities and more shots than they did, but the majority of our shots were either directly at the goalkeeper or taken from poor angles near the goal line. When we did switch the ball, we didn't win the ball in the air or receive the ball keeping it close enough to get a shot off. We did a great job of creating numerous 1 on 1 opportunities, but unfortunately we only finished 1 of them. It was the last game for 5 Lady Monarch seniors: Xochi Arellano, Giana Garcia, Nadia Medina, Ingrid Salas and Jocelyn Serrato. Denison will also graduate seniors Belinda Pancho, Keily Rodriguez, Valeria Acosta, Krystal Barroso and Ashlyn Dionicio. The senior class has helped Denison to win 33 games in the last 4 years, which ties for the most wins over 4 seasons with the classes of 2025 and 2019 since Bound started keeping track of all soccer stats in 2011. The girls have a lot to be proud of in their career and were a big part of some big time wins and 2 Substate Finals appearances for the Lady Monarch soccer program. This was also the last game for Chris Eller, who retired from coaching at the end of the 2026 season".