

Girls Soccer

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http://www.theintell.com/sports/high-school/fall/girls-soccer/girls-soccer-own-goal-helps-william-tennent-edge-central-bucks/article_6a136ed4-7451-11e6-9af3-6fcf4d0312e4.html

SOL Continental girls soccer: William Tennent 2, Central Bucks West 1 GIRLS SOCCER: Own goal helps William Tennent edge Central Bucks West

By Bill Keen, staff writer 11 hrs ago

William Tennent 2, Central Bucks West 1

Central Bucks West 1 0 -1

William Tennent 0 2 -2

First-half goals: Ali Walsh (CBW)

Second-half goals: Own goal (WT), 46th minute; Shannon McGuinn (WT) from Paige Schmidt, 55th minute

Shots: CB West 10, WT 7. **Saves:** Jenny Sutorious (CBW) 6; Jessie Jara (WT) 7, Emily Vickalitis (WT) 2

Records: CB West (1-1, 0-1 SOL Continental); Tennent (1-1, 1-0 SOL Continental).

WARMINSTER — The lucky bounces were even at one each Wednesday, when William Tennent's girls soccer team scored off a perfectly executed set piece.

The game-winning goal off the foot of senior Shannon McGuinn in the 55th minute gave the Panthers a 2-1 victory over Central Bucks West.

It was Tennent's first victory of the season and as a member of the Suburban One League Continental Conference.

"At halftime, coach (James Barry) told us we were going against a really good opponent and that things like that happen," said Tennent junior Nikki Reh, referring to Ali Walsh's 50-yard direct free kick goal in the 33rd minute that put the Bucks up 1-0 at the

intermission. "He said we were playing up to their level and we just couldn't stop. We had to continue to push and we couldn't have a letdown. I think we fought through it really well."

Walsh is one of the defenders who often takes free kicks. She said West's players spend a lot of practice time taking them from all over the pitch. The repetition contributed mightily to West's goal, when the ball sailed high off the rock-hard pitch and went over goalie Jessie Jara's hands.

"We often practice the shot quite a bit, so I have a lot of (experience) taking them," Walsh said. "It was just another shot that I was trying to put into the box (on the fly) and it ended up going into the net."

"I always try to aim far post so I can maybe get it in off somebody's head. But it just happened to hit in the right spot and bounced over the keeper's hands. We'll take this one as a learning experience, so (next game) we can come out on our toes and keep pressing."

West held the lead until the lucky bounces evened out in the 46th minute. Reh's throw-in deep in West's end went off a Bucks defender and ricocheted into the cage for an own goal that made it 1-1.

The score sheet doesn't reflect a point for Reh, but that didn't change the way she felt when the ball went in the upper corner.

"I was happy when it went in," Reh said. "It was definitely a boost. And then we just transferred that feeling back to defense and we played really well after that."

Reh takes throw-ins using a run-up to the edge line to give the ball added momentum. On the winning goal, the ball sailed to Paige Schmidt near the far post. When the sophomore got her head on it the ball bounced to McGuinn, who redirected it home.

"We work on set plays a lot because we're a team that's very aggressive," said Reh, also a starter on Tennent's softball team. "We make sure everybody's crashing the net. On the winner, the ball took another bounce to Shannon and went in. In this game, we really took advantage of the things we practice."

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BILL KEEN

High School Sports

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