

## **B-CC Barons Beat Bowie Bulldogs in 2010 Girls Soccer State Class 4A Championship**

B-CC, winner of the West region 4A division (15-2-1), met Bowie, victor of the South (16-0), in a duel at UMBC stadium on November 19<sup>th</sup>, and it was the Barons who reigned 4 – 1 to capture the state championship for a third consecutive year — a herculean feat. Two minutes into the game, however, the Bulldogs raised the hurdle for the Barons when Bowie forward Maddie Simms pried a vulnerable ball from the grips of the Barons defense to score the first goal. But B-CC wasted no time in equalizing when, six minutes later, Alex Doll pierced the Bulldogs defense with a central pass that rocket-fast Vic Gersh powered into the net. It was a Doll-Gersh offensive imprimatur that would burn through the night as, for example, with 28 minutes remaining in the first half when Alex Doll flicked an air-bound ball reaming with panache that Gersh headed into the goal at a mind-boggling angle. Having gained control of the midfield even before then, B-CC guarded the terrain with skillful play by Khanna, Muller, Eliza Doll, and Melander, while upfront, Levin posed a constant scoring threat as defenders Mesirow, Hardgrove, Ward, Klontz, and, in goal, Angela White limited the Bulldogs to a solo goal.

Notably, with the whistle commencing the second half, freshman Marion Muller capably assumed goalkeeping duties for the opening minutes while starter White tended to a thumb injury. For much of the half, the score remained 2-1, and while the possession arrow pointed to B-CC more than it did to Bowie, it was a lead that, some might contend, was uncomfortably narrow for the Barons given Bowie's prowess. Helping to seal the lead were Amy Heaton, Julia Hooks, Zoe Thorpe, Rebecca Wenker, and Nicole Parina. But then, with 10 minutes remaining in the match, the scoring levee broke again in favor of the Barons as the Doll-Gersh imprimatur burnished as bright as ever, this time following a Zoe Mesirow corner that Alex Doll dished into the air with masterful touch to find Vic Gersh who blasted the ball into the net for a three-peat. And then, as if by a graceful stroke of fate, with just 23 seconds left on the clock, a groundball shot by Alex Doll slipped through the hands of the Bowie keeper, rewarding a player who one could argue stands at the pinnacle of unselfish play and whose career teems with assists for others.

It was, in the end, a game ruled by B-CC, who fired 19 shots to just two by Bowie, who sent in four corners to Bowie's pair, and whose keeper – Angela White -- needed to make just one save to Bowie's 10.

And so, with the season having come to a close, a heartfelt thanks to the entire team for shepherding us once again from summer into fall and for gracing us with enlightening play one cannot help but think mirrors the canopy of stars of brisk autumn nights now gone by. A special thank you, too, to Coach Kurtz for his ever insightful teaching and, of course, to our departing seniors who shared not only their talent and leadership, but an indelible friendship that will last for life.

By Karl Klontz