

Barons Contain Churchill 1-0 to Conquer Class 4A West Division

On November 9, Richard Montgomery HS hosted the final for the girls' Class 4A West Division soccer playoff, a game that tipped to B-CC's favor by a lone goal. The Bulldogs, entering the face-off with a recent 2-1 win over Walter Johnson HS, hit the pitch forcefully, registering the first corner three minutes in and a near goal – a shot rocketing over the crossbar – a minute later. But B-CC's Khanna, Alex Doll, Eliza Doll, Gersh, Muller, and Melander took control of the midfield thereafter to mount successive attacks with forwards Levin, Thorpe and, in the second half, Hooks. Nine minutes before the first half ended, Alex Doll earned a corner on a drive along the left line with a series of eloquent stepovers and fakes. The corner was delivered by Zoe Mesirow into a sweet spot outside the goal box where Khanna chested the ball to Liz Ward who sent a looping shot over the keeper that struck the crossbar before Gersh one-touched the rebound to score.

The second period, like the first, saw successive Barons' offensive waves wash across Churchill's half, but the Bulldogs' competent defense repelled them, their keeper tallying nine saves before the game ended (versus three by Barons Angela White). For their part, B-CC defenders Hardgrove, Ward, Mesirow, Klontz, and Levin stood equally strong, limiting the Bulldogs to five shots. Each team's defense was tested with corners, three coming from Churchill, and five from B-CC. But if this game were scored on measured, disciplined, fluid playmaking, the marks would tally more readily to the Barons' side of the ledger, for their forward motion of the ball was often supported with a solid number of attackers waiting for the opportunity to strike.

The Barons move on to meet Leonardtown High School in the state semi-finals on Saturday, November 13th, time and place to be announced.

By Karl Klontz