

Barons Defeat Montgomery Blair Blazers 3-2 at Blair in Class 4A West Semi-Finals

There were times one had to wipe the eyes to judge whether what transpired at Blair HS in the 4A West Semi-Finals on the misty evening of November 4 was reality or merely a moist mirage. What was certain was that Blair leapt to a commanding 2-0 lead in the first half, the first goal coming off a blistering free kick by Blair's Jamie Kator, and the second from a Blazers' shot that deflected off a Barons' foot. The Blazers were relentless in their attacks and like Epoxy glue on the back line, preventing the Barons from registering a single shot the entire half.

Ah, but life changes. With the mist falling in sheets as the second half opened, the Barons ignited as a team. Four minutes in, Eliza Doll nearly scored on a rebound off the Blazers' goalie after a Vic Gersh shot — sparks from the Barons. Then a pair of B-CC corners, their first of the night, the latter sent by Kara Klontz into a bevy outside the goal box that Vic Gersh pounced on to score — Barons' smoke. It was B-CC fire thereafter with multiple scoring opportunities, including one, with 12 minutes remaining, that saw Eliza Doll float a left-footed ball across the goal line that Hannah Levin punched in to tie the game. And then, as often happens in crucial games, a defining moment arrived. Before taking a free kick 10 yards into the Blazers' half, Alex Doll removed her gloves and drilled a low ball past the wall which soon turned into a B-CC corner that defender Zoe Mesirow delivered in picture-perfect style to the far post; Alex Doll was there to head it masterfully into the goal to give B-CC the lead. The Barons' flames could not be extinguished in the final minutes as every Baron gave her best.

The statistics: For the Blazers, 15 shots, 5 on goal, 4 corners, and 4 saves by the keeper. For the Barons, 11 shots, 7 on goal, 3 corners, and 3 saves by Angela White.

The Barons move on to the finals of the Class 4A division in a match against either Churchill or Walter Johnson.

By Karl Klontz