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BCC wins national women's soccer title 2nd-half goals spell victory for Hornets

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Correspondent

HERKIMER -- For more than 55 minutes Sunday afternoon, fans of the Broome Community College women's soccer team suffered the stress of watching their team trail Gloucester County College (New Jersey) in perhaps the most important sporting event in school history.

But the Hornets' players never panicked.

Windsor graduate Emily Dixon scored two second-half goals, garnering MVP honors, while helping BCC (21-1) to its first National Junior College Athletic Association Division III title in any sport with a 2-1 victory against Gloucester at Herkimer County Community College.

"This team has more heart than any team I've ever played with," BCC player Mallorie Hartmann said after the victory.



EMILY DIXON

The game did not start as the Hornets would have hoped as they fell behind, 1-0, just 5 minutes into the contest. And though BCC outshot Gloucester, 11-5, in the first half, it still trailed at halftime.

"It was very frustrating not being able to finish all those opportunities we had," Dixon said.

It was the second time in two days the Hornets trailed in a game after not trailing any team since the third game of the year, a 3-2 loss to Delhi 19 games ago.

"We didn't like the feeling of losing," said BCC player Allie Stabler, a Vestal graduate whose 26 goals this season were the fourth-most in the nation, though not the most on her own team. "We hate the feeling of getting scored on, and we use that as motivation for all our other games. So I guess we had to get scored on to get really mad and come back."


Added Hartmann: "Our goal was not to let (Gloucester score first). But it made us play harder, because we didn't let up and we kept coming at them, and wore them down."

Once Gloucester scored, the Hornets poured on the pressure, finally converted with 35 minutes remaining. Calli Karl took a shot that ricocheted off a defender to Stabler, who crossed the ball to Dixon, who headed it into the net from six yards out, tying the game, 1-1.

BCC kept pressing for the go-ahead score, and with 11:57 to play, the pressure paid off.

Stabler lofted a ball from about 35 yards out over the Gloucester defense and into the penalty box. Dixon got behind the defenders and beat the goalie to the ball, striking a hard shot from about eight yards out that deflected off a Roadrunner defender and into the net. The goal, Dixon's 28th of the season, gave BCC a 2-1 lead

"A lot of it is just playing with your heart," Karl said. "All of us out there were thinking, 'we want to be national champs. We want to work our hardest, play with our hearts and leave nothing on the field and not leave anything behind that we would regret.'"

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Congrats to the ladies. That is no small accomplishment.

Posted by: **bksplace** on Mon Nov 12, 2007 7:44 am

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