

LRU Women's Soccer In SAC Tournament Championship

Written by Staff Reports

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For the second straight season, the Lenoir-Rhyne Women's Soccer Team (17-1) is in the finals of the Food Lion South Atlantic Conference Tournament after defeating Anderson (9-10-1), 2-0, in the semifinals Friday evening at Manchester Meadows.

The Bears, the top seed, will face the second-seeded

Bulldogs of Wingate (15-3) in the championship match on Sunday beginning at 4 p.m. Wingate defeated No. 5 seed Newberry by a 5-2 score in its semifinal.

Senior forward Laura Linehan (San Diego, Calif.) scored both goals of the match for the Bears, who dominated throughout as they held a 22-2 advantage in shots taken en route to its school-record 16th straight victory.

Linehan opened the scoring just 55 seconds into the contest after collecting the ball in the box and finishing off a shot into the left corner of the net. Senior midfielder Mariel Mena (Gainesville, Fla.) was credited with the assist for the Bears.

Linehan scored again in the 24th minute when she took hold off a through ball from sophomore defender Jessica Lintz (Florence, S.C.) and beat the Anderson goalkeeper one-on-one.

Linehan, a first-team All-SAC honoree, now has a team-leading 12 goals on the season.

Lenoir-Rhyne junior goalkeeper Caitlin Scruggs (Torrance, Calif.) earned her fifth shutout of the season while Anderson's Kaitlyn Neipp (Anderson, N.C.) suffered the loss in goal. Neipp tallied four saves for the contest.

Wingate and L-R, the fifth-ranked team in NCAA Division II, will be squaring off for the tournament title for the second consecutive year as well. Last season, the Bears prevailed by a 3-1 score. Lenoir-Rhyne is also in the finals for the third straight season.

Lenoir-Rhyne Men's Soccer Advances To SAC Tournament Finals

The Lenoir-Rhyne University Men's Soccer Team (9-8-3) punched its ticket to the 2011 Food Lion South Atlantic Conference Tournament Championship match with a 2-0 victory over Catawba College (9-9-2) Friday afternoon at Manchester Meadows.

The Bears came into the tournament as the seventh seed while the Indians are the No. 6 seed. L-R faces top-seeded Anderson (16-3) in the finals on Sunday at 1 p.m. The Trojans, ranked

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No. 11 in NCAA Division II, defeated fourth-seeded Lincoln Memorial (7-7-3) by a 2-0 score in the other semifinal match on Friday.

Lenoir-Rhyne opened the scoring just 4:58 into the contest when junior defender Joe Green (York, ENGLAND) headed the ball into the net off a corner kick from junior defender Chris Johnson (Liverpool, ENGLAND). The goal was Green's second of the year while Johnson was credited with the assist.

The contest remained 1-0 until the 65th minute when Lenoir-Rhyne took advantage with an own goal after a shot deflected off a Catawba player and into the net for the score.

Sophomore goalkeeper Stefan Dill (Southampton, BERMUDA) registered his fourth shutout of the year as he stopped four shots for the Bears, who held a 20-9 advantage in shots taken en route to the win.

Catawba's Evan Harvey (Apex, N.C.) suffered the loss after tallying four saves while Frankie Cardelle (Salisbury, N.C.) registered a pair of saves as well for the Indians.