

CRUSADERS BLANKS ST. STEPHENS TO WIN 3A TITLE

Written by Rick Strunk
Saturday, 25 May 2013 21:03

Christina Gibbons scored a pair of goals to lead Cardinal Gibbons to a 3-0 victory over Hickory St. Stephens on Saturday afternoon for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-A women's soccer championship at Dail Soccer Field at N.C. State University. Gibbons, a Duke signee who scored five goals in a playoff game against Burlington Williams earlier in the playoffs, was named Most Valuable Player of the championship match. The Crusaders exerted heavy pressure in the first 20 minutes and tallied just 2:08 into the contest when all-American Morgan Reid found the back of the net. Then Cardinal Gibbons made it 2-0 in the 11th minute with a two on one that resulted in a goal by Gibbons.

In the 60th minute, Gibbons dribbled down the right side and then tucked it into the left corner of the net for the final 3-0 advantage. The Crusader defense, with senior Kristen Twomey in goal, recorded its 18th shutout in 25 games. Twomey had five saves as Gibbons outshot St. Stephens 20-9.

Cardinal Gibbons finished the season 22-2-1 and played for the NCHSAA women's soccer championship for the fourth time, winning its second state crown. The Crusaders won the 2-A title in 2007 and now have an amazing 38-6 record in state playoff competition in the last eight seasons. St. Stephens made its first appearance in the championship and the Indians ended the campaign 21-4-2.

NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION STATE 3-A WOMEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP Dail Soccer Field, N.C. State University

Raleigh-Cardinal Gibbons 2 1 -- 3
Hickory-St. Stephens 0 0 -- 0

SCORING

3rd minute CG—Morgan Reid
11th minute CG—Christina Gibbons
60th minute CG—Christina Gibbons