

Nation's No. 1 team defeated

By JIM WYATT

Sports Writer

CHATTANOOGA — How good is high school soccer in Tennessee?

Well, the nation's top-ranked team, Science Hill, isn't even the best team in the state.

Germantown Houston, playing a man short for more than a half, beat Science Hill 1-0 at Red Bank Stadium last night to win the Class AAA championship.

Daniel Ridenhour scored the lone goal midway through the first half. Houston played with just nine field players for 44 minutes after Brad Kishishita was red-carded for a flagrant foul — pulling Brooks Hyer's ponytail.

"My club coach always tells me that if I keep letting my hair grow longer, sooner or later someone was going to reach out and grab it," Hyer said. "It had never happened before, but now it happens in my last game. I guess that's what I get for having long hair. But that should have ended up helping us."

Soccer

"We love challenges," Houston goalie Brian Covey said. "When we lost Brad, we all knew we were going to have to pick things up if we were going to win a championship."

Science Hill (20-1-1) was ranked No. 1 in the nation by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America/UMBRO.

Germantown Houston (20-1-1), whose only loss this season came against Father Ryan, won its third championship in four years.

In the Class A/AA final, Chattanooga Notre Dame downed Memphis University School 2-1 in a penalty-kick sudden-death shootout when Mark Brininstool kicked in the game-winner.

Brininstool's boot came immediately after all five players from each team nailed their five PKs and well after 80 minutes of regulation, 20 minutes of overtime and 10 minutes of sudden-death. ■