

Soccer

Lady Rebels earn finals; streak alive

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BRENTWOOD — Franklin girls soccer team, the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association defending state champions, defeated Notre Dame here last night 4-1 and now stand only one game away from this year's title.

But, the final score doesn't tell it all as the Lady Rebels pushed their overall record to 75-0-2, the longest non-losing streak in girls prep soccer in the nation. The Lady Rebels are 17-0 this season.

Franklin will put that streak on the line today at 2 p.m. at Brentwood High, taking on Germantown, a 1-0 winner over Farragut.

At the end of the first half last night, the Franklin girls had to be wondering if the magic was almost over. It was anybody's game at the end of the half with both teams tied at 1-1.

Sauna Christiansen scored for Franklin in the first half, and Kelly O'Neill scored for Notre Dame.

And, it was early in the second half when Christiansen had yet another goal, but Notre Dame didn't stop trying with one attempt after that.

The bout was decided midway through the second half with back-to-



Diane Kelley • Staff

Notre Dame's Judy Batts (23) has the ball headed toward the goal as Franklin's Debby Damon, left, makes her move in the TSSAA State semifinals at Brentwood High.

back goals by forwards Trish Sisson, a junior, and Stacey Burchett, a senior.

And it wasn't until then that the Rebels were able to rest easy, after playing what Christiansen termed a 'flat' game.

"We were tired toward the end of the first half, and played a little flat," said Christiansen, who will be playing her last high school soccer game today. "Hopefully, we can get everything together," she added concerning today's matchup.

And her teammates agree everything will definitely have to be together.

"This win doesn't leave much room to breathe," said Burchett. "They're out to get us."

Franklin Coach Gary Shrader is well aware of that, and was quick to point out last night's flaws. Although he wasn't totally pleased with the way his team played, he was indeed pleased with the outcome.

"We played the ball too much to the middle, he said, "We need to be more consistent. We need to play a full eighty minutes tomorrow night and stay in our passing game."

Notre Dame ended the season with a 16-3-2 mark. ■