

Bearden ends Centennial's first state trip

By **JESSICA HOPP**

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MEMPHIS — In order to gain a berth in the state tournament the Centennial boys soccer team accomplished what no other team this season could — defeat nationally ranked Hendersonville.

That win earned the Cougars (13-5-2) their first state soccer appearance. But that is where the history making ends for Centennial — at least for this season. The Cougars suffered a 3-0 loss to Bearden yesterday in the first round of the Class AAA tournament at Mike Rose Soccer Complex.

“We knew we had nothing to lose,” Centennial senior Ryan Mattison said. “We came out here and played as hard as we could. We just didn’t finish when we had our opportunities.”

Centennial joined five other Midstate teams in defeat yesterday, leaving Ezell-Harding in Class A/AA and Columbia in Class AAA as the only area teams still competing for a soccer title.

Bearden went up 1-0 after a Centennial foul and a free kick. Derick Radcliffe had just a sliver on the left side of the goal, but a perfectly placed ball went in with 12 minutes remaining in the first half.

Kris Gustafson scored with 9:42 remaining in the game, and Matt Herbstritt sealed the game with less than a minute to play.

Centennial will graduate eight seniors.

- Columbia took it down to the wire against Collierville in a match that went to a shootout. But when it came time to perform, Columbia advanced to the semifinals against Bearden with a 1-0 win.

Benton Cheatham, Zac Walker, Ben Speed and Mitchell Gray all connected on their shootout attempts to extend the Lions’ season.

- Smyrna forced overtime against Houston after regulation ended in a 2-2 tie, but the Mustangs were quick to take advantage in the first 10-minute overtime period, scoring two goals and winning 4-2.

Class A/AA: Ezell-Harding advanced with poise in the quarterfinal again Haywood 2-1.

Haywood took the lead just two minutes into the game off a goal by Luis Rosales, but Ezell-Harding senior forward Jacob Burney answered with a goal 15 minutes later to tie the score at 1-1.

“That first goal, I didn’t see it very well, but it didn’t look real strong,” Ezell-Harding Coach Brett Mitchell said. “I think (goalkeeper Randy Schlappi) was surprised it went in. That kind of fueled the fire for us.”

In the second half, senior midfielder Austin Brunhoeber gave the Eagles a 2-1 lead. The Eagles will face Christian Academy of Knoxville in the semifinal tonight at 7:30.

- Franklin Road Academy (19-2) suffered a 2-0 loss to Chattanooga Christian School.

“I thought the team really performed well,” FRA Coach Ken McDonald said. “We had enough chances. We were just a touch off in front of the goal.”

Division II: Battle Ground Academy sophomore Jason Bristol scored his first varsity goal of the season with 25 seconds remaining in the second overtime period to force a five-minute sudden death overtime against Memphis University School.

Neither team scored through two sudden death periods, and the game was forced into a shootout. BGA held the 3-2 advantage but then missed its final two shots. MUS made its final two to pull out the win.

- Montgomery Bell Academy fell to Christian Brothers 4-0. University School of Nashville — making its first state tournament appearance — lost 3-1 to Knoxville Catholic. ■