

Lady Cavaliers fall in Regional final

The Carlinville High School girls' soccer team saw their season come to an end May 18 as Marquette Catholic gained a measure of revenge with a 5-2 victory over the Lady Cavaliers at Gordon Moore Park in Alton. Carlinville had defeated Marquette on penalty kicks May 6 to win the South Central Conference championship.

The second meeting between the two SCC rivals started out just as intense as the first. Marquette, last year's state runner-up, came out attacking Carlinville's goal. The Lady Explorers scored the game's opening goal in the 23rd minute; however, the Lady Cavaliers didn't drop their heads. Alexis Richie passed a ball into space behind the Marquette defenders. Senior Nikki Boente raced to it and hammered a shot past the MCHS goalie to immediately tie the score. Seven minutes later Boente struck again. This time she dribbled around two defenders to set up the score. Boente's two goals raised her season total to a school record 36, and they also raised her career total to 70.

Carlinville's 2-1 lead held for six minutes. The Lady Explorers scored the tying and go ahead goals in the final four minutes of the first half. At halftime Marquette led 3-2.

The second half was mostly controlled by the Explorers. Marquette would score goals in the 58th and 69th minutes to earn a 5-2 win.

Despite being outshot 19 to 5, the Lady Cavaliers continued to battle until the end of the game. All 22 players in uniform played for Carlinville. Sophomore goalkeeper Leah Kaegy made several great saves and finished with a total of 14.

Carlinville finished their season with an impressive and well earned 21-3-1 record. The 21 wins set a new school record. For the third time in four years the team also won the Panther/Bulldog Invitational. The most memorable moment of the season was when the team defeated Marquette in penalty kicks to win the school's first SCC championship. Seniors Nikki Boente, Megan Broom, Staci Lewis, Kelli McCaherty, and Megan Schlender finished their careers with another school record of 61 wins.

The team celebrated the season as the team's banquet May 26 at the CHS cafeteria with a meal and awards presentations. Read next week's *Macoupin County Enquirer-Democrat* for complete coverage.