



# Harvard-Westlake girls' soccer has title in its sight

By Erik Boal, Staff Writer

Updated: 03/05/2010 11:08:57 PM PST

At Harvard-Westlake of Studio City, reaching a Southern Section girls' soccer final isn't just an accomplishment, it's an expectation.

Although the Wolverines captured their first Southern California Div. II regional title last season, they have come up empty in two appearances in Southern Section championship matches in the past four years, including last season.

Harvard-Westlake (20-1-3) will try to end its drought and capture the program's first section crown since 2002 when it takes on first-time finalist Beckman of Irvine in the Div. II title match at 5 p.m. today at Warren High in Downey.

"Of course there's motivation for us to win. Plus, I think we're in a better place than we were last year and we're in much better shape," Wolverines coach Richard Simms said. "But do you need any extra motivation to play for a championship? Sure, we've been wanting redemption, but for us this isn't an ending, this is a means to an ending."

USC-bound Katie Speidel and Haley Boysen,

both nursing injuries in last year's 2-1 loss to Saugus, have been explosive in the postseason. They'll need to continue the trend to get by the No. 3 Patriots (19-2-1).

"Our goal every year is to win it. It's sort of an expectation," Speidel said. "Last year, we played really hard, we just got unlucky. But we've prepared well and we're ready."

Although the top-seeded Wolverines will continue to play Tuesday in the Div. II regionals, Boysen doesn't want to have to rebound following a tough loss like Harvard-Westlake did last season.

"We realize we have such a good chance, so we don't want to blow it," Boysen said. "Being a senior, I really want this. But it's going to take a lot of desire and determination to make it happen."

Knights' trio seeking fourth trip to the top

Kylee Hall, Kristina Hulse and Hannah Parcel have contributed to teams during their four-year varsity careers at Desert Christian of Lancaster that boast a combined 94-5-6 record, including an unbeaten run of 43 consecutive matches.

They'll look to add another victory to that run at 2 p.m. today when the Knights seek their fourth straight championship against Malibu (21-1-2) at Mission Viejo High.

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