



CIF girls soccer championship preview capsules

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DIVISION 1

SAN CLEMENTE (18-6-5) VS. ESPERANZA (23-0-4)

Site, time: Mission Viejo High, 7:30 p.m.

How they got there: San Clemente def. Dos Pueblos, 2-1; def. Royal, 1-0; def. Los Alamitos, 3-1 in penalty kicks; def. Long Beach Wilson, 1-0; Esperanza def. Millikan, 6-0; def. Trabuco Hills, 4-0; def. Murrieta Valley, 3-0; def. Santa Margarita, 2-0.

Outlook: The Tritons will look to win their third consecutive CIF title. That feat has been accomplished four other times by county teams (Mission Viejo 1986-88, Marina 1993-95, Santa Margarita 1997-99, and San Clemente 2002-04). Senior Shelby Chambers-Garcia connected on the game-winning goal in the team's 1-0 semifinal victory over the Bruins. She has scored a goal in the past two title games. The Tritons are undefeated in their past 14 games (11-0-3) with their last defeat coming on Dec. 30th. San Clemente coach Stacey Finnerty never has lost a CIF title game, going 2-0-3. Undefeated Esperanza, which is playing for a title for the first time since 1994, will look to win the program's first championship. Esperanza's defense has been a huge catalyst in the team's success, posting 19 shutouts in 27 games this season. The Aztecs will be without leading scorer Rylee Baisden (red card suspension). The two teams met twice last season, with San Clemente defeating Esperanza 1-0 in the title game of the Excalibur Tournament and advancing past the Aztecs, 4-2, on penalty kicks in the CIF-SS Division 1 quarterfinals.

DIVISION 2

BECKMAN (20-2-1) VS. HARVARD-WESTLAKE (20-1-3)

Site, time: Warren High, Downey, 5 p.m.

How they got there: Beckman def. Canyon of Canyon Country, 4-1; def. Burbank, 1-0; def. Ayala, 1-0; def. Flintridge Sacred Heart, 4-3, on penalty kicks. Harvard-Westlake def. Burroughs, 7-0; defeated El Dorado, 1-0; defeated Laguna Hills, 1-0; def. Redlands East Valley, 4-0.

Outlook: In only their second trip to the postseason, the Patriots will be attempting to win the school's first CIF soccer title. Patriots senior Tawni Martino scored her 28th goal of the season in the semifinal, tying her with Magnolia senior Justine Dougherty and Santa Margarita junior Lauren Bohaboy for tops in the county this season. Martino is also one of three Patriots seniors (along with Autumn Altamirano and Camryn Jun) to have recorded at least six assists this season. Beckman's offense has been one of the county's most consistent attacks this season, scoring at least one goal in all 23 matches. The Mission League-champion Wolverines were the Division 2 runners-up last season, losing to Saugus, 2-1. The Wolverines enter this year's final on a roll, winning their first four playoff games by a combined score of 13-0. Harvard-Westlake will be looking to win its first CIF title since 2002.

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