



Beckman jolted early, falls in Div. 2 title game

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DOWNEY - Beckman's girls soccer team was shell-shocked in the opening minute Saturday in its first appearance in the CIF finals.

The Patriots were unable to recover, losing to Harvard-Westlake, 2-1, in the CIF-SS Division 2 title match at Warren High.

Midfielder Doni Hunter-Sallustio scored a goal 51 seconds into the match to provide a big lift for the Wolverines, who won their first CIF title since 2002.

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"The first five minutes, we made a little mistake and after that, we were in the game 100 percent," Beckman coach Stacy Colon said. "They came out attacking hard and we just didn't step to the ball soon enough and got beat right away and it resulted in a goal.

"But I think after that we figured out what we needed to do and we played a much better second half."

Harvard-Westlake coach Richard Simms, who saw his team lose to Saugus in last year's Division 2 final, was relieved to see his squad score quickly.

"It's funny, we were in this final last year and we allowed a goal in the first minute," Simms said. "I think experience was a factor early in the game, it always is."

Harvard-Westlake moved out to a 2-0 lead on a goal by Haley Boysen in the 29th minute.

Beckman got back into the match when Autumn Altamirano scored in the 32nd minute off an assist from Alexandra O'Connor to cut the lead to 2-1.

"I was so excited, I haven't scored a header in so long," Altamirano said. "I love heading the ball, so I'm just really glad that I got that in there."

Harvard-Westlake maintained a 2-1 lead going into the second half and was able to withstand Beckman's challenges as the rain picked up.

The Patriots (20-3-1) had some close scoring chances in the second period, but goalkeeper Reba Magier stepped up several times to preserve the title for Harvard-Westlake.

"Overall, it was a really good effort," Colon said. "The second half, we were much better. Alex O'Connor I thought played outstanding in the middle, and I think she gave their No. 8 (Boysen), who is an awesome player, a run for her money."

Beckman is hoping for a possible rematch with Harvard-Westlake in the regional tournament, which starts next

week.

"I'm so stoked. I want to play them again to get revenge," Altamirano said.

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