

National Elite Prep Soccer Showcase Jan 12-14

Allen Varsity soccer girls entered this top national High school tournament knowing they would be playing an extremely tough schedule against opponents ranked in the Top 20 in the nation... Coppell #3, Colleyville Heritage #4, St Thomas Aquinas Florida #13 (National champions 2011) and Midland, Regional finalists in 2011. They walked away Saturday night proud of a 1 win, 2 ties and 1 loss record and made great strides in starting to establish a top level state program.

Thurs Jan 12 at Gateway Park 7pm Allen 2-1 Midland

It was very cold conditions at 7pm at Gateway Park but the wind had dropped . We decided to split the squad with some players rested and not travel for Friday's game v St Thomas due to the cold temperatures.

In the 1st half we played attractive soccer and went close with shots by Ally Johnson (Jr) and Ashley Casey (Sr). We went ahead with 15 mins remaining in the 1st half with a direct kick by Teri Todd(Sr) that sailed into the top corner

In the 2nd half Midland produced more effort and 11 mins in scored when their forward rounded Danielle McIntyre (soph) and shot into the back corner over goalie Nicole Limpert (Jr). We were under a little pressure as they hit the post from a corner but then we started to get back into the game. Tori Spears (Sr) headed against the bar from a cross and then just missed with a flick shot round the post. A quick corner with 11 mins left put us up. Marianne Kemme's (soph) quick pass to Johnson who crossed and in the scramble sophomore Courtney Calton stabbed it home. We absorbed pressure and saw out the game for 2-1 victory

Fri St Thomas Aquinas Florida 10am TCU Score Allen 0-1 St Thomas

The weather started to warm up as we visited TCU. We were playing St Thomas a national powerhouse coming to the end of their regular season as they started in November and 2011 national champions. We started slowly and were quickly punished for failure to clear the ball in the first 5 mins. Their forward dribbled through our defence and slotted home. We were under pressure for 20 mins and rode our luck with a goal disallowed for offside and goalie Shannon Maroney (Sr) making strong saves and clearances. Gradually we started to play our way into the game and our confidence began to develop. In the 2nd half we played down the sloping field and began to attack them . We came close a couple of times . Spears had a header hit off the cross bar. Bri Horan(soph) was strongly tackled as she closed in to score. Defensively we played more aggressively. We still came up short but made progress as we realized we can compete with nationally ranked programs.

Sat 10am v Colleyville Heritage at Gateway Park Allen 2-2 Heritage

We decided to play all of our squad players for at least 20 mins each as we tried to stay fresh for the final game v Coppell in the afternoon. Bright sunshine greeted us at Gateway Park. In the first half goalie Katie Pruneau (Sr) made a courageous save at the feet of a forward. Heritage went ahead when a midfielder was allowed to dribble through and score. We came back to tie it with 10 mins left with sophomore Chloe Fowler hitting a strong right footed shot into the far corner. We started to dominate the game with fresh legs. Lauren Gonzalez (Jr) put us ahead 10 mins into the 2nd half with a stunning shot from 25 yards out but we again allowed them to get back with an equalizer. The last 15 mins we attacked and several goalmouth melees almost put us ahead but we had to settle for a tie.

Sat 4pm at TCU Coppell 0-0 Allen

All players and coaches had to stare into bright sunlight as we took on powerful Coppell in the final game of the tournament. It was an even game. Ashley Casey turned their defence inside out but we just failed to score. Our defence held firm and goalie Maroney made some good saves from crosses. Senior Kaitlyn Nimitz ran through ,rounded the goalie but the ball ran over the end line before she could shoot.

In the 2nd half goalie Nicole Limpert came up strong with an aggressive defence in front of her. We had great chances with Johnson dribbling through and their defence cleared it away. Coppell was under pressure from Allen several times but we could not convert. Spears long free kick was pushed over the bar and a mad scramble in front of their goal was finally cleared. Our defence was superb and held tight to preserve a shutout . We had smiling faces and a lot of confidence now due to better performances against a strong opponent.

Record 1 win 1 loss 2 ties

