



Herndon Sets Goal Scoring Record

Heat player Ashley Herndon was featured in an article by Josh Hardin in the Loudoun Times after she broke the Stone Bridge High School season scoring record on the way to the Virginia AAA State Title. The article follows:

Stone Bridge caps unbeaten season with state championship

Tuesday, Jun. 15 by [Josh Hardin](#) | [2 comments](#) | [Email this story](#)



Stone Bridge players, from left, Ashley Herndon and Sara Bowers, and Julia Harmison and Emily Fredrikson embrace following the Bulldogs' 4-0 blanking of Cosby in the Virginia AAA girls' soccer championship game June 12 in Chantilly.—
Times-Mirror
Photo/Greg Nash

CHANTILLY – Storms were brewing all around Westfield High School – site of the Virginia AAA girls' soccer championship game – on June 12.

However, neither the threat of lightning and thunder nor a skilled Cosby team – Stone Bridge's opponent in the title game – could stop the Bulldogs from claiming their first soccer championship at the AAA level.

Stone Bridge (21-0-2) convincingly defeated the Midlothian-based Titans 4-0 in Saturday's title game to cap off a spectacular season.

“I am just excited for the girls—they worked hard and sacrificed a lot,” Stone Bridge coach Joan Windows said. “It was kind of a magical day, a perfect ending.”

This year’s championship run with a young team puts the Bulldogs in a good position for the next few years.

Stone Bridge’s top two scorers – freshman forwards Ashley Herndon and Murielle Tiernan—combined for 43 of the team’s 78 goals this spring.

“It is hard to find one person to put the ball in the net, but we have two,” Windows said. “They compliment each other—Ashley is a finesse player, while Tiernan is the workhouse.”

The tandem proved to be just as effective with the pressure on, as Tiernan placed a beautiful cross to Herndon, who struck for a goal in the 46th minute. Minutes later, Herndon again capitalized after collecting a long pass from senior defender Jazmyn Ervins.

The goal extended Herndon’s school record of most goals in a season to 29.

Stone Bridge dominated throughout the game with the help of Connecticut-bound senior center midfielder Jennifer Skogerboe, who controlled the pace of the game and helped set up her teammates.

“Jennifer sets them up, she fields the ball,” Windows said. “It’s fun, she is graceful, controls and distributes. She is our backbone.”

The Titans seemed uncomfortable and tight the whole game, as Stone Bridge allowed them only one shot, from way outside the box, in the first half, and only a handful in the second half.

Stone Bridge drew blood in the 29th minute with an unconventional own goal. Tiernan dribbled the ball down to the corner and placed a cross that sailed over her teammates and hit a Cosby player’s head, which sent the ball into the net.

Following the own goal came the eruption from Herndon with her two strikes, while senior midfielder Sara Bowers added the game’s final goal in the 63rd minute.

Junior goalie Julia Harmison made six saves to earn the shutout.

“Coach Windows told us we could win in the beginning of the season,” Harmison said. “I don’t think many of us believed it, but we pulled it off.”

Windows preached the same philosophy all year: to focus on the opponent at hand. “We did it one step at a time and built on that,” Windows said, “That’s what they did, they just played to win that game.”

After the win, the Bulldogs seemed to be in shock that they had finally obtained the ultimate prize.

“It is awesome—I am so happy,” Tiernan said. “I just can’t get over it.”

Harmison added, “I don’t think it has set in yet.”

With the season coming to a close, Stone Bridge is for now just living in the moment, but surely the team will be expecting big things next year.

“This is the best feeling in the world—I just love my team,” Herndon said. “We have a lot of good young players. Hopefully, we can do it for the next couple years.”