

# SCHOOL SOCCER

## Avery's shot finds corner for Warriors

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COLONIE — An improbable shot kept Mohonasen's improbable postseason alive Saturday.

Joe Avery's 45-yard free kick found the upper corner of the goal in the eighth minute of play, and the Mighty Warriors used that stunner to defend their Section II, Class A boys' soccer title with a 3-2 win over Glens Falls.

Northville also was a repeat winner, getting a goal in the first overtime to edge Bolton, 3-2, in the Class D final. Waterford-Halfmoon beat Berlin, 3-1, to win the Class C title; and Voorheesville advanced in Class CC, besting Schoharie in the penalty kick round after the teams tied, 1-1.

A.J. Igoe added two goals as Mohonasen grabbed a 3-0 halftime lead and held off Glens Falls to win its second straight sectional title after a drought of over 30 years.

But Avery's goal was the most shocking of the afternoon.

"It's a goal no one expects," said Mohonasen senior co-captain Lucas Flood. "Getting a goal that way, that quick, sets the other team back on its heels."

Avery took a harmless looking free kick after a teammate was fouled just over midfield. He lifted the ball toward the Indians' penalty area, and with a gusty winds behind it, the ball kept carrying . . . and carrying . . . and carrying . . . until it tucked under the crossbar, above the frantic attempt of Glens Falls goalkeeper Ben Spilman to swat it away.

"I was so excited. It was purely an accident. I was trying to put it in the box so one of our players could get a foot or a head on it," said Avery. "When it went in, I didn't know what to do."

Mohonasen coach Cory Gregg had requested that his team's restarts be sent into a dangerous spot, hoping to take advantage of the wind and Spilman's aggressiveness.

"I knew their keeper liked to play high off his line, so I said, 'First kick, put one on frame and see what he does,'" said Gregg, who missed last year's run to the state semifinals while stationed in Iraq. "I don't even think it was a shot. He just lofted it in."

Igoe gave his team a two-goal lead four minutes after he collected a pass from that split the Glens Falls defense. The 11th-grader made it a three-goal edge when he and Mike Korzun double-teamed a Glens Falls defender deep in the penalty area, forcing a turnover.

"I didn't know how far we'd make it this year," Igoe said. "This is really a big accomplishment for us."

"We have a strong group back — Luke Flood, Aaron Parisi, Gianluca Puerto and Joe Avery — who have molded the younger guys," said Gregg of his team's success.

Flood, one of two returning starters from last year, isn't apologizing for the 8-10-2 record his team is taking into Wednesday's noon regional at Guilderland against the Section III champion.

"We're playing Class AA teams all year long," he said of their Suburban Council schedule. "That gets us ready to come here and do what we've got to do."

#### FALCONS REPEAT

Josh Ostrander scored a goal, his long flip throw-in led to MacKenzie Groff's goal in regulation, and his corner kick in overtime was banged home by Groff to lift Northville to its second straight Class D championship.

All three goals came on headers, as the Falcons improved to 16-1-1 and moved into a Wednesday regional downstate.

"Josh put a great ball in," said Groff, one of nine senior starters for coach Steve Clapper. "I was just there to put it in."

Goalie Mike VanNostrand had kept Northville's season alive with two outstanding saves in overtime.

"This year was a lot harder all the way through the tournament," said Ostrander.

Bolton, which switched from Section VII to Section II this season, took a lead on Conor Smith's first goal, with Ostrander getting it back three minutes later. Groff got his head to a long Ostrander throw 1:19 before the half, but Smith made it 2-2 in the second half.

#### FORDIANS CHAMPS

A year after coming up a game short, Waterford picked up its second sectional title in five years with the third win of the season over its Central Hudson Valley League rival.

Zac Lennon had a goal and assist, and Chris Hunt and Dylan Carlton had the other goals for the 16-2-0 Fordians.

"From the beginning of the season, we thought we could do this," said Lennon.

"We were so close last year, we wanted to get it done," said Hunt.

"This is one of my better teams," said Waterford coach Fred Engelmann. "We don't any one or two players that have to take control. It's a good team with nice skills and they're athletic."

Waterford will play Voorheesville in Monday's CC/C playoff. The winner of that game, set for 5 p.m. at Colonie HighSchool, will host the Section X champion in a Wednesday regional set for noon, also at Colonie.

#### Girls

#### HILLTOPPERS WIN

BROADALBIN — Ashley Smith converted a first-half penalty kick, and sixth-seeded Fort Plain capped a tremendous run through the Class C brackets with a 1-0 win over topseeded Middleburgh.

Fort Plain, 7-9-0 heading into the postseason, beat the top three seeded teams in winning its first sectional championship.

Bridget Cuddihy scored in the first half, and Molly Lauver scored in the second to send Cambridge over Chatham, 2-0, in the Class CC championship game.

Fort Plain and Cambridge will play for the spot in the regional tourney Wednesday at 4:30 at Stillwater High School.