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TOP STORY SPOTLIGHT

## Farrell's record-breaking goal helps Legacy top St. Mary's

Josh Dungan

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Legacy's Rayne Hertel (3) and St. Mary's Madilyn Schneider (6) battle for the ball during Thursday's game at Sanford Sports Complex.  
TANNER ECKER, TRIBUNE

Josh Dungan

**O**akley Will and Katelyn Farrell sat tied atop the all-time Legacy girls soccer goal-scoring lists entering Thursday's game against St. Mary's.

Another Will may have provided the game-winning goal, but Farrell broke that tie to take over as the all-time Sabers' goal-scorer in a 2-0 win over the Saints at Sanford Sports Complex.

"We hit a rough patch so we said let's just focus on St. Mary's, not look ahead to next week or the last game against Jamestown," Legacy head coach Mick Lenhardt said. "Focus on the opponent ahead of us, get back to how we play, and just focus in the moment, possess the ball a little more, then when we get a chance, attack and attack with speed, play back when it's not there, not force Katelyn all the time, and I think we did a much better job of that this game."

"It feels awesome, it's a great achievement," Farrell said. "Couldn't ask for anything else. We needed some good wins now, this'll boost our confidence going forward."

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The first half may have ended with the Saints and Sabers locked in a scoreless tie, but not without a little luck for St. Mary's.

Farrell had an attempt to break the tie with just over 11 minutes remaining in the opening half, but her breakaway off a through ball ended with a shot that bounced right into the midsection of Saints keeper Savannah Schweitzer.

"Had some chances going into the wind in the first half, would have liked one there, but felt like we'd break through in the second half," Lenhardt said. "(That miss) happens, you just hope you get another chance."

"At halftime we said this is our game, we need to win it," Farrell said. "This is our home field, that's how we took it, couldn't lose."

Legacy broke through just over two minutes into the second on a penalty kick by Avery Will, but the Sabers had multiple opportunities in the moments before a hand ball was called against St. Mary's that were blocked, either by their own attacking players or by St. Mary's defenders.

But when Will stepped to the penalty line, her shot was true, with Schweitzer helpless to stop a rocket into the top right corner of the net to put the Sabers into the lead.

"We worked on our wings to press their outside backs, press their defense, get turnovers and that's what led to the PK," Lenhardt said. "Had a little skirmish there, ball hopped up. You never want to concede a hand ball PK when it's not intentional, but we'll take it. Avery buried it."

Her first great opportunity didn't make it to the net, but Farrell managed to break the record anyway.

After Legacy blocked an attempt by St. Mary's to send the ball out of the middle third, the Sabers controlled up into St. Mary's defensive third. Despite two St. Mary's defenders ahead of her, Farrell found a pocket of space and pressed ahead, working free for a shot that skipped into the bottom corner of the net and gave Legacy a 2-0 lead.

"Her goal was nice, we knew she could get loose on that, they were keeping three or four girls back so it was tough for her to get balls," Lenhardt said. "They were even man-marking her when we moved her out to the wing in the first half, but she's the leading goal-scorer at Legacy for a reason, we figured she'd get one tonight."

"It was a great play, Grace (Lelm) made a great ball, she makes a lot of great balls playing the mid," Farrell said. "Our midfield and our wings, they play beautiful balls all the time and I thank them for everything, honestly."

St. Mary's wasn't going away despite the two-goal deficit, and Berlynn Felchle had to make five saves in Legacy's net throughout the game to keep the Sabers in front.

Some work on tackling dummies on the off day between Tuesday and Thursday's games paid off on one ball in particular that Felchle won through a scrum of bodies, ending a St. Mary's scoring chance.

"St. Mary's has played a lot of teams tough, they're a good defensive team, they haven't conceded a ton of goals, so we knew it would be a challenge," Lenhardt said. "We wanted to possess the ball, dictate play, and I figured we'd have some success. Berlynn we worked hard yesterday, we brought out tackling dummies and had her run through them to get the ball. A little skirmish in front there, she called for it and dove right on the ball just like we worked on practice, that was her most impressive save."

"St. Mary's is a good team, they make good movements, they're a tough battle for us usually," Farrell said. "Towards the end we played more defense because we were up two."

Legacy's win, combined with a Century loss to Mandan, moves the Sabers back into a playoff spot as the regular season heads into its final two weeks.

The Sabers next opportunity to hold their spot comes next Monday in a home game against Minot North.

"Minot North on Monday, that's another good team whose record doesn't indicate how well they've been playing," Lenhardt said. "They played us extremely well up there, we got lucky to walk away with a win on a last-second free kick. Century's loss helps us, but that's not what we're focusing on, we play Minot North on Monday and then we'll move on to the next game."

"We work well under pressure, that's what we did last year, we needed all the wins (we could get) and we got all the wins," Farrell said. "It's a good mindset going into every game, it's just next game, look at the next game."

Legacy 2, St. Mary's 0

St. Mary's;0;0;--;0

Legacy;0;2;--;2

**First half:** No scoring.

**Second half:** 1. Leg, Avery Will (penalty kick), 42nd minute. 2. Leg, Katelyn Farrell (Grace Lelm), 57th minute.

**Goalkeeper saves:** St. Mary's -- Savannah Schweitzer 5. Legacy -- Berlynn Felchle 4.

**Records:** Legacy 6-5-1 West Region for 19 points, 6-5-1 overall; St. Mary's 3-6-2 West Region for 11 points, 3-6-2 overall.

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**By Josh Dungan**

**Sports Reporter**

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