

## Legacy shocks Mandan with late rally

JOSH DUNGAN

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Mandan's Sarah Helderop takes a shot as Legacy goalkeeper Berlynn Felchle defends at the Sanford Sports Complex on Saturday.

DARREN GIBBINS, TRIBUNE

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**W**ith the girls soccer West Region tournament no more, the regular season matters more this year.

Legacy took a big step towards extending its season with three big points on Saturday afternoon, toppling Mandan 2-1 at Sanford Sports Complex with a late rally keyed by Katelyn Farrell.

"We were out of our routine with the weather situation yesterday and then the game being rescheduled for today, but we told the girls to focus on controlling what they could control," Legacy co-head coach Mick Lenhardt said. "We were ready for the chance to play Mandan again and we executed our gameplan to near-perfection."

The matchup between the current third -- Mandan with 31 points -- and fourth -- Legacy with 26 -- seeds in the conference was delayed a day by Friday's thunderstorm, and weather continued to play a factor with wind gusts pushing 30 miles an hour on Saturday.

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While weather is an accepted tradition in North Dakota soccer matches, it affects games all the same, and both teams tested each other's defenses but were unable to score in the first half.

"We practice on that field with the wind, but it was definitely something the teams had to adjust to," Lenhardt said. "Corners were difficult, throw-ins were difficult, and you just try and adjust the best you can."

Mandan, trying to draw level with Jamestown for second in the conference, got on the board first with a penalty kick at 31:13 after a tripping foul in the Legacy penalty box by Lila Healy.

Sarah Helderop took the shot for Mandan and converted, beating Legacy keeper Berlynn Felchle to Felchle's left on a hard shot.

"It was a legit foul, Mandan's player was definitely fouled in the box," Lenhardt said. "Berlynn almost got to it, she picked the right corner and dove but just missed it. We told the girls after that that there was a lot of time left."

Felchle made up for the miss later in the half, making a save that, when cleared out, would turn into Legacy's first goal.

After Emmy Schumacher settled down the long boot from Felchle in the middle third, she made a pass to Farrell, who turned on the jets to split Mandan's defense and just hold off a Mandan defender long enough for a hard shot that beat Mandan keeper Hannah Forderer with 13 minutes to go.

"Katelyn can definitely split defenders like that, she's good with her feet," Lenhardt said.

"Mandan was marking her close all game, but we told Emmy, if you can, play it to the middle (on a play like that), and she took a touch and played it right to Katelyn up the middle, and she made a good shot."

Mandan fell behind just after the clock slipped under six minutes to go.

A turnover by the Braves on a bad pass headed into empty space in Mandan's defensive zone, and Farrell was on the spot again, taking control of the ball and putting a shot on net from right at the top of the penalty box that Forderer was unable to stop, giving Legacy its first lead.

"We took advantage of the bad pass from Mandan," Lenhardt said. "Katelyn split them and finished again. We've worked with our attackers on hitting balls in wind like today's low and on the ground, and both goals Katelyn did that, and they are tough shots to save for a keeper."

The Sabers kept the pressure up and Mandan was unable to counter in time, giving Legacy its third straight win and extending its unbeaten streak to seven games.

"Sixteen games is a lot of games, we knew the team this year would need time to gel," Lenhardt said. "After we lost at Mandan, we told the girls that the next Bismarck High game would define the season and we came out with a 3-1 win. We've gotten healthy, we've gotten our rotations down, and we've been firing on all cylinders since that point."

The win provided Legacy with three crucial points and dropped its magic number to one; any one win by either the Sabers in their final two matches or any non-win by Bismarck in either of its two matches of the week would give Legacy the fourth and final spot at state.

With the Sabers scheduled for their rematches against Jamestown on Tuesday and Dickinson on the road on Friday, the Sabers feel confident about their ability to return to the state tournament.

"Jamestown is playing great, that'll be a state-level game and it'll be good for the girls to stay focused and play in a game with the level and energy they'll face if we get to state," Lenhardt said. "We felt we played Jamestown well on the road, and we're hoping to wrap it up there."



## Legacy 2, Mandan 1

Mandan;0;1;--;1

Legacy;0;2;--;2

**First half:** No scoring.

**Second half:** 1. Man, Sara Helderop (Penalty kick), 49th minute. 2. Legacy, Katelyn Farrell (Emmy Schumacher), 67th minute. 3. Legacy, Farrell (Lila Healy), 74th minute.

**Goalkeeper saves:** Mandan -- Hannah Forderer 1-2--3. Legacy -- Berlynn Felchle 4-4--8.

**Yellow cards:** Mandan -- Aaron McElwee, Ree Metz. Legacy -- None.

**Records:** Mandan 10-4-1 West Region for 31 points, 10-4-1 overall; Legacy 8-4-2 West Region for 26 points, 8-4-2 overall.

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