



Legacy's Kellen Okerson controls the ball against during Thursday's state tournament quarterfinal game against Fargo Davies at Cushman Field in Grand Forks.

Sabers defeat Eagles in quarterfinals

ANDREW HAUGLAND
The Forum

GRAND FORKS — Legacy came ready to play on Thursday night. The West Region No. 3-seeded Sabers defeated East No. 2 Fargo Davies 3-0 in a quarterfinal contest at Cushman Field.

“We came prepared to have a physical fight,” said Legacy for-ward Kamden Kooiman. “We performed like a unit with 100% chemistry all game.”

Kooiman added that he liked that the officials allowed the game to play out without too many penalties.

Legacy led 2-0 at halftime. Sabers midfielder Uriel Rivera buried the game's first goal in the 26th minute. Rivera was assisted by Kooiman. Kooiman scored a goal of his own in the 40th minute.

Kooiman said his abilities come into full view when the Sabers are clicking on fronts. “Just playing with intensity and trusting my teammates,” Kooiman said. “If I gave 100% of my effort and just played with my intuition, I knew it would come.”

Sabers midfielder Ryker Zietz extended the Legacy lead to 3-0 in the 67th minute. Zietz fired a bouncing shot that bounded into the net.

Davies held the Sabers to three shots on net but all three found the back of the net. Legacy head coach Tom Marcis said the preparation ahead of the tournament played a big factor. "We've been working really hard with the guys," Marcis said. "This is the state tournament. Leave it all on the field, don't take it off."

Another key factor for the Sabers was goalkeeper Liam Horner, who stopped all eight shots faced and recorded his seventh shutout of the season.



Legacy's Kamdem Kooiman controls the ball against Fargo Davies during the quarterfinals of the state soccer tournament on Thursday at Cushman Field in Grand Forks.

"(Horner) is an awesome goalie," Marcis said. "He's experienced and he's a big part of our defense in the back."

Legacy had two corner kick attempts.

Davies could not convert on eight corner kicks during the game. The shutout marked the third time the Eagles could not manage to score.

Eagles head coach Adam Haskins said despite a heavy onslaught of shot attempts his team struggled to generate quality tries offensively.

"We've got to execute," Haskins said. "We've got to finish some of those shots and it's a different game. We had plenty of chances.

Davies faces off against a familiar foe, East No. 4 West Fargo Sheyenne, in the consolation semifinals at 2:15 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11 at Cushman Field.

"If we're hungry and we play, we should be OK," Haskins said. Legacy's championship hopes re-main alive. The Sabers battle the West Region No. 1 Jamestown in the semis at 6:45 p.m. on Friday.

"If we played like this tonight and continue the intensity, we absolutely have a shot," Kooiman said. "It's all about just playing as a team."