

# Sabers stun Blue Jays in OT in semifinals

ABBY SHARPE Grand Forks Herald Oct 12, 2024

GRAND FORKS — Legacy lost to Jamestown twice in the regular season.

The Sabers didn't let that happen a third time in the North Dakota boys soccer state semifinals at Cushman Field in Grand Forks.

Kamden Kooiman scored the overtime goal to lift Legacy (11-3-4) over the Blue Jays 2-1 on Friday night.

Sabers junior midfielder Uriel Rivera saw Kooiman running down the line in the 87th minute.

"I believed in him," Rivera said, "and played on the ball. I knew he was going to finish it."

The Sabers knew the effort it would take to knock off Jamestown for the first time this season.



Jamestown's Gabe Jenison (4) pushes the ball past the defense of Legacy's Riley Ketterling during a state tournament semifinal game on Friday in Grand Forks.

“We really focused on the fact that 80 minutes wasn’t enough,” Legacy coach Tom Marcis said. “Go out there and don’t leave anything out. Show them we’re the better team.”

“The last five or six years, some of the biggest games in the WDA have been between the two of us. We’ve knocked them out of state a couple of times in our tournament. It’s a pretty intense game.”

The Sabers will play West Fargo at 3:30 p.m. Saturday in an effort to secure their first state title in 11 years as a varsity program.

“This is our chance,” Rivera said. “We’re not going to mess it up anymore.”

The loss is Jamestown’s first of the year.

“It’s hard to beat a team three times,” Jamestown coach Brandi Harty said. “To be honest, 17 games is pretty amazing, so we’re very proud of our boys. We’ll give Legacy credit. They played very hard, too. That’s why we had to go to overtime. They always play us tough, and it’s something we’re very used to.”

The scoring opened midway through the first half, when Jackson Steele buried a feed from Iddi Ramadhani to give Jamestown a 1-0 lead.

That was short-lived. Less than two minutes later, Legacy’s Rivera scored, tying the game at 1.

“We still realized we had so much time,” Rivera said. “We just played calm. We tied it up, and that just meant it was 0-0. We just played how we play as a team, and just played confident and finished the job.”

There was 65 minutes of game time played before Legacy closed out the win.

That had a lot to do with how the game ended, Harty said.

“Playing that many minutes for as long as we did,” she said, “some of our boys ran out of a little steam there. Honestly, they played really hard. That’s all I ask of my players.”

Blue Jays goalkeeper Grant Lunde ended with five saves, and Legacy goalie Liam Horner tallied 11.

The Blue Jays will face Minot in the third place game at 1:15 p.m. Saturday.

“I’ve been on teams like this, and it’s probably the hardest thing ever,” Harty said. “We’ve had such an amazing season so far. We just want to remind them this is your

last time playing together as a team. We play for each other, we play for our family, and that's what we keep telling them.”

Legacy played in the state title game last season, dropping a 2-1 game to Fargo Shanley.

The Sabers will look to close it out this season.

“We've been inching a little closer every year the last couple of years,” Marcis said. “It would mean a lot to the school, to the boys. This was a very up and down season for us. We knew that (the players) had the talent, but there was just a lot up and down. It'd be an awesome accomplishment for the boys.”