

Aliso Niguel ties San Clemente to grab playoff spot

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2010-02-10 22:01:34



Second-ranked San Clemente and No. 9 Aliso Niguel played to a scoreless tie in girls soccer on Wednesday evening at San Clemente High.

Combined with Dana Hills' tie against Tesoro, the Wolverines (6-3-14, 2-3-5) wrapped up the South Coast's third and final automatic playoff berth. Aliso Niguel led Dana Hills by one point heading into Wednesday's league finales.

San Clemente (14-6-5, 8-0-2) clinched the outright league championship Monday, meaning the two-time defending CIF-SS Division I champions will get the No. 1 seed from the league and possibly one of the two top seeds for the postseason when the pairings are released Monday.

"It's always fun," San Clemente coach Stacy Finnerty said. "We've been here before and we have enough returners who know it's going to be tough, but we are going to enjoy it. The reward of our hard work is going to the playoffs and having a good time no matter what happens."

Aliso Niguel rode the play of goalie Kathleen Messinger to a scoreless tie once more, the fourth time it happened in league and the ninth time this season. She was tested plenty in both halves, but San Clemente produced nothing more than a couple of close calls.

Aliso Niguel's best scoring opportunity came midway through the second half when the Tritons had trouble clearing the ball deep in the box. However, the Wolverines failed to get a shot off despite the ball being in the box for nearly a minute.

Wolverines coach Randy Dodge said his team did what it needed to do, and he already had the squad practicing penalty kicks in preparation for the playoffs. It is the 13th consecutive season Aliso Niguel has reached the CIF playoffs, and it has advanced to the semifinals the past three seasons.

"Prepare always," Dodge said. "We are hoping things go our way in the playoffs. We have a great group. We want to carry on the tradition at the highest level. You don't know what can happen in the playoffs."

In other girls soccer:

No. 4 El Toro 3, Trabuco Hills 3: Megan Daniels, Emily Goldstein and Izzy Pozurama scored goals for the Chargers, who finished league unbeaten at 7-0-3. El Toro goalie Megan Ferry recorded five saves.

Trabuco Hills (4-1-5) received goals from Jessica Kantor, Jenny Konishi and Natalie Werner. Kassidie Stade also had eight saves for the Mustangs.

Magnolia 6, Anaheim 2: The Sentinels (9-0) scored four times in the first half and clinched the outright Orange League championship with the victory.

Rachel Wallace scored twice, and Justine Dougherty, Dakota Voas, Kelsey Wallace and Sara Winterburn each scored once for Magnolia. Rosario Gonzalez scored twice for Anaheim (3-6).

In boys soccer:

No. 8 Esperanza 2, No. 7 Los Alamitos 1: The second-place Aztecs (8-2) scored once in each half to defeat the third-place Griffins (4-5-1) in the Sunset League.

Michael Hodis and Cory Wolfrom recorded goals for Esperanza. Sean Siemens scored Los Al's goal in the second half.