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FULSHEAR LIVING

The Fulshear Living Monthly is a publication of the Fort Bend Herald and the Katy Times.

PUBLISHER Clyde King cking@hartmannews.com

GENERAL MANAGER & ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Lee Hartman leehart@fbherald.com

COMPOSITION & GRAPHICS MANAGER Alfred H. Dubé adube@fbherald.com

> **GRAPHIC DESIGNERS Melinda Maya** mmaya@fbherald.com **Rachel Cavazos** rcavazos@fbherald.com

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Shamrock Shindig shakes up Fulshear



ulshear is quickly becoming the area hotspot for holiday festivities.

On March 16, the City of Fulshear and the Fulshear-

Katy Area Chamber of Commerce co-hosted the "Shamrock Shindig", a St. Patrick's Day celebration. The event is in its fifth year now, and this year the festivities took place in the main downtown square.

Visitors were encouraged to wear their most festive green or Irish attire. Over 3,000 people flocked to the event, creating a sea of green in downtown.

Len Tiernay, Fulshear-Katy Area Chamber of Commerce volunteer and owner of local business Cloud 9 Computing attended the event dressed in green with a Leprechaun hat and dyed-green beard.

"St. Patrick's Day is one of the most festive holidays" said Tiernay. "I think the fun of putting on these outfits is that it's a break from normal. People may think you look silly, but who cares what they think?" Mayor Aaron Groff said that the family-friendly event and other events hosted by the city and chamber of commerce are at the core of Fulshear's culture.

"This event is what Fulshear is all about. Living in Fulshear is about family and coming together. It's about hanging out with friends and feeling festive," he said.

In previous years, the event was held on FM 359, but according to Mayor Aaron Groff, the event had to be moved to accommodate the growing size and popularity.

"Obviously, when you look around and see how big the event has become, there's no way we could have done this on 359 again. This area is growing and so are our celebrations here in Fulshear."

Groff also noted that the City of Fulshear and Fulshear-Katy Area Chamber of Commerce's next event will be the Fourth of July celebration. The event will also take place in downtown.

Said Groff, "This will be the biggest fireworks show Fulshear has ever seen, so you don't want to miss it."













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DEMPSEY EARNS SCHOLARSHIP FOR SOFTBALL

by ASHLEY BLACK

eea Dempsey believed she could, so she did.

Dempsey is a talented senior at Foster High School. She has worked incredibly hard to attend the University of Texas at Tyler on a full athletic and academic scholarship in the fall. This avid softball player's perseverance and drive have led her to a bright future.

Although Leea was zoned to attend the new Fulshear High School as part of the inaugural class, she chose to attend Foster High School and play softball at a more competitive level, setting the bar higher for herself. In the spring of 2017, Foster High School's softball record was 22-11-1. Dempsey was awarded 2nd team All District and was recognized for her academic accomplishments during her freshman year.

The following season, Dempsey and the Foster High's softball team competed against Forney High School in the Texas 5A Softball State Championship in Austin. Although Foster was defeated at the Championship, Leea earned spot on the Conference 5A All-Tournament Team. She impressively ended the 2018 season with 27 RBI's, 35 hits, 28 runs scored and 16 walks.

Leea Dempsey was, remarkably, the first 14-year-old invited to play with the Texas Storm team, a travelling team for 18 year old softball players. She is a starting outfielder and has, to date, played in over 400 games with the team, and she will finish her career with the Texas Storm this summer.

However, away from the softball field, Leea and the Dempsey family were struggling. Her younger sister, Ashlynn, was fighting for her life against an aggressive form of cancer. While this was a trying time for Leea, she continued to pray hard and play harder. Her extended family, neighbors and friends rallied around her in support as she strived to shine during every softball practice and game. Thankfully, Ashlynn has been in remission for six years, and Leea's persistence during a devastating time has begun to pay off.

Dempsey was invited to visit several colleges across the country, including UT Tyler, to meet the many coaches who had noticed her talents very early on in her career. As she considered UT Tyler, Leea said, "The coaching staff is awesome and the campus is beautiful." What truly drew her to the university's team was its high ranking and winning record. The UT Tyler Patriots, led by Head Coach Mike Reed, won the NCAA World Series in 2016, along with several regional and divisional championships

over the years.

During Dempsey's official visit to UT Tyler, Coach Reed escorted her into the locker room where she found a locker that was already engraved with her name, her number, #00, and a uniform inside. A sign also hung on the locker room wall that read, "The University of Texas at Tyler wants you, Leea". Once again, options were available to Leea, and she ultimately committed to UT Tyler.

Dempsey's ambitious work ethic and commitment to achieve have not gone unnoticed. As Dempsey signed her official Letter of Intent for UT Tyler, Foster High School's Athletic Director, Shawn McDowell, said, "While most high school students are going to movies and spending time with their friends, true athletes give up social activities and go to great lengths to improve their skill level."

Leea Dempsey truly exemplifies what it means to work hard and make sacrifices for success. One quote she chooses to live by is, "Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing."

"And I love softball," she added.



Leea Dempsey (10) of Foster doubles to left field during the second inning in Game 3 of a 5A-IV regional final playoff game between the Foster Falcons and the Angleton Wildcats on Saturday May 26, 2018 at the University of Houston, Houston, TX.







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FAMILY HOPE FOR FULSHEAR GALA — raises — \$70,000 FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

by CLAIRE GOODMAN



Aaron Groff, Mayor of Fulshear, and his wife, Melanie Groff attended the Family Hope for Fulshear gala on April 5.

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lacking when it came to organizations that supported families and individuals in need.

Olson collaborated with leaders in the community to create an organization that could address those needs. "We noticed there was just not an organization there to be able to help people in these kinds of situations," Olson said.

Olson founded Family Hope for Fulshear, a 501(c)(3) charity with the mission of "Transforming hurting people into healthy families through the hope of God".

On April 8, Family Hope hosted a gala at Hemi Hideout to raise money for their efforts to change the lives of families in the community. The event featured wine and food tastings from local restaurants, a raffle and live auction. The results are still being calculated, but Olson estimated that the evening brought in over \$70,000 for the charity.

All proceeds from the evening will go directly to providing aid in the community.

Family Hope's largest focus is giving food to members of the community. On the second Saturday of each month, over 200 volunteers gather at Parkway Fellowship Church to distribute food to over 300 families. The food comes from the Houston Food Bank and Second Mile Mission Center.

The food is delivered on pallets, and volunteers sort the food for distribution. Families then pull into the parking lot, and the food is loaded into their cars.

"Anybody who comes is given food," Olson explained. "We don't deny anybody. Providing people the dignity of food is one of our most important missions."

The Saturday food drives also give volunteers the opportunity to interact with families on a personal level. "It's a good way for us to kind of touch base with people and hear some of their needs and talk to them about how we can help them," Olson said.

The organization donates food, but Olson believes that supporting families is about more than that. "We don't want to be an organization that's just handing out food and kind of keeps people dependent," Olson said. "When that happens, you take away people's dignity."

Olson believes that education is the key to helping families rise out of poverty. Family Hope offers parenting classes called "Raising Highly-Capable Kids". To incentivize parents to attend, the organization gives \$100 gift cards to families who come to the classes.

Beginning in July, Family Hope will also offer finance courses. "We'll be helping families juggle their finances. Sometimes that's at the root of what is causing their situation," Olson said.

Family Hope also has a program called "Assisting Emergencies" that addresses major crises like the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. During Harvey, Family Hope spent over \$70,000 in flood-relief work.

Olson stated that last year, over 2,600 volunteers contributed their time to Family Hope. "We're very grateful to the community who volunteer with us. We couldn't do any of it without them," Olson said.

To learn more about Family Hope for Fulshear, or to volunteer or donate, visit www.familyhopefulshear.org

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Family Hope for Fulshear's gala raised over \$70,000 for the charity.



The gala was held at Hemi Hideout, a unique venue known for its antique car decorating sceme.



Dale Olson, founder of Family Hope for Fulshear speaks at the gala on April 5. The organization is dedicated to "Transforming hurting people into healthy families through the hope of God."



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Drug dealers purchase

NEW VEHICLES FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE

by CLAIRE GOODMAN







The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office recently used money seized from drug dealers to purchase a 2018 Mustang GT350.

Asset forfeitures from drug-traffickers enabled the sheriff's office to purchase an airboat after Hurricane Harvey.

rug dealers cost taxpayers millions of dollars every year. But now, thanks to the hardworking Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office, drug dealers are generously giving back to the community.

The sheriff's office recently used seized drug funds to purchase a 2018 Mustang GT350. The top-of-the-line vehicle cost nothing to taxpayers. Drug funds covered 100 percent of the cost of the vehicle, and local vendors donated the lights and graphics.

"We made that commitment to Commissioner's Court when we bought the car," explained Major Chad Norvell of the FBSCO. "We also guaranteed that any future maintenance or repairs or anything the car needs, we'd continue to use seized drug funds for it. So there won't be any tax dollars at all used for the vehicle."

According to Norvell, Fort Bend County is a highly trafficked area for drugs. "Having US-59 go through Fort Bend County, it's a major drug corridor. The drugs are going north, and the money is going south. Our narcotics task force addresses it heavily with our units."

The funds are seized during traffic stops along with the drugs being transported. Once the assets are seized, the case goes to court. In most situations, the trafficker quickly signs away the contraband, making the court process quick and uncontested.

"Often times (the transporter) is a 'mule' so-to-speak," said Norvell. "These are innocent people that the drug cartels are using to carry their money, and (the transporter) will immediately say, 'It's not my money,' and they sign it away immediately."

The newly-purchased vehicle is only used for recruiting

purposes, education and community events. It will not be used for patrol. The car also goes to schools with the officers when they present anti-drug programs to children.

The car is a recent acquisition, but Norvell said that the sheriff's office has used asset forfeitures for many purchases. The sheriff's office frequently uses seized drug money to fund specialty classes for the officers. Detectives, SWAT and deputies have attended several special training courses paid for by drug dealers.

"The sheriff (Troy Nehls) may appropriate the funds outside the purview of the Commissioner's Court," Norvell explained. "So if there's an expensive class a detective might want to go to that's not in our budget, and the sheriff decides it's a really beneficial class, those funds will send the deputy to the school."

The county's drug traffickers have provided rescue vehicles as well. While the new Mustang is not used for patrol, the sheriff's office used seized funds to purchased an airboat following Hurricane Harvey.

"During Harvey, we essentially had to rent airboats to go help people. So we won't be in that position again where we have to wait on somebody else," said Norvell.

The sheriff's office is also currently in the process of trying to buy a high-water rescue vehicle with contraband funds as well.

"We're spending this money on stuff that benefits the community," said Norvell. "It's not only the show-vehicle; it's extremely useful items as well."

Norvell cited that at any given time, there is typically \$800,000 to \$1 million in Fort Bend County's asset-forfeiture account.



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"GROUNDBREAKING FOR A CAUSE"

— Event Celebrates \$30K Donation to Six Local Non-Profits —

ARCEL, a privately-owned commercial real estate firm put a unique spin on the traditional real estate development groundbreaking ceremony. On March 20, "Groundbreaking for a Cause," marked the official groundbreaking of Cross Creek Town Center, a mixed-use development with more than 76,000 square feet of combined office and retail space located within Johnson Development's Cross Creek Ranch.

"Groundbreaking for a Cause," was a celebration of the economic growth of Fulshear, located west of State Highway 99 in Fort Bend County, as well as a fundraiser to support the important work of six local non-profit organizations serving the Fulshear-Katy area.

The centerpiece of the event was a VIP shovel ceremony to reveal the names of the local non-profits, each receiving a \$5,000 donation from MARCEL, for a total donation of \$30,000.

In attendance at the event were the participants of the VIP shovel ceremony, including City of Fulshear Mayor Aaron Groff; City of Fulshear City Manager Jack Harper; City of Fulshear City Council Member James Patterson; Katy Area Economic Development Council Vice President Rick Ellis; Cross Creek Ranch General Manager Rob Bamford, and Morningside Capital Principal Christian Chamberlain.

The ceremonial first turning of dirt on the property was

followed by a check presentation to the organizations, which included:

- Joe Joe Bear Foundation: An organization delivering aroundthe-clock comfort for children facing life-threatening illness by providing them with new teddy bears.
- Fulshear Police Foundation: Established to promote community involvement and provide needed equipment, training, and technology to maintain the excellence, professionalism and safety of the Fulshear Police Department.
- Katy Area YMCAs (Monty Ballard YMCA at Cinco Ranch and Mark A. Chapman YMCA at Katy Main Street): An organization committed to youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.
- Katy Christian Ministries: An organization offering social services including emergency financial assistance, a Food Pantry, a Crisis Center that houses the Domestic Abuse Center and the Sexual Assault Center, and a Resale Store and Donation Center
- Katy ISD Education Foundation: Established to serve as a catalyst for extraordinary teachers to create extraordinary classroom experiences for their students in the Katy ISD.
- Lamar Educational Awards Foundation: Dedicated to securing and distributing resources to the students, staff and campuses of the Lamar Consolidated ISD that will supplement, enhance and enrich the quality of education.

"Neighborhood outreach is a core value of our investment in the communities where we build," said MARCEL Founder Vernon Veldekens. "The 'Groundbreaking for a Cause' event was a tangible way for us to demonstrate our commitment to this core value by supporting local nonprofits working hard every day to improve the quality of life for residents of Fulshear-Katy."

"We are excited about the continued growth the Cross Creek Town Center brings to our retail corridor, which not only benefits the thousands of families living in Cross Creek Ranch, but also the great city of Fulshear," said Rob Bamford, general manager of Cross Creek Ranch. "It's equally exciting to work with a commercial developer like MARCEL who has so much heart and is making a difference in our local community with these generous donations."

Cross Creek Town Center, located at 6635 W. Cross Creek Bend Lane, Fulshear, Texas 77441, is situated on 10.47 acres of land, with approximately 30,000 square feet dedicated to retail and service-oriented space, approximately 20,000 sq. ft. dedicated to restaurants, and approximately 27,000 sq. ft. of Class A office space. Cross Creek Town Center will accommodate approximately 557 parking spaces.

The expected completion date of the development is Spring 2020.

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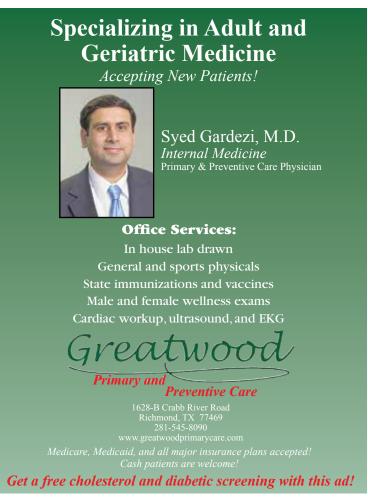
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PHOTO ON PAGE 17: From left: Fulshear Police Department Lieutenant Lindsay Miller, Fulshear Police Chief Kenny Seymour, Vernon Veldekens, Alison Veldekens and Fulshear Police Foundation Vice President Don McCoy accept a donation check from MARCEL real estate firm for the Fulshear Police Foundation.







Charging ahead

Fulshear soccer teams both reach third round of the soccer playoffs

—BOYS—

2 LATE GOALS POWER CHARGERS TO REGIONAL SEMIS, PAST SEALY

by CHAD WASHINGTON | cwashington@fbherald.com

ATY - Arturo Trevino couldn't look, but the Fulshear boys soccer coach had the confidence that his player could cash in.

But Trevino heard the roar of the crowd as Isaiah Figueroa scored with 1:39 left to put the Chargers ahead in a 2-0 win over Sealy in a Region III-4A quarterfinal match Friday at Katy's Rhodes Stadium.

"I kind of turned my head a little bit and heard the reaction from the fans,"Trevino said.

Fulshear will face Lumberton in the regional semifinals on Friday at 11 a.m. at A&M Consolidated High School.

Figueroa, a junior midfielder, scored on a breakaway opportunity, racing down the field and putting a shot on the right side past the Tiger goalkeeper to break the scoreless draw.

"I saw the open goal and had plenty of time, so I just took my time and finished it," Figueroa said. Thirty seconds later, Figueroa was slammed to the turf by Sealy goalkeeper David Gomez, setting up a penalty shot.

Senior forward Favour Ogieva placed his shot just underneath Gomez on the left side for the second goal to send the Chargers to the regional semis in its first postseason in school history.

Both teams played tough defense for most of the match, as neither team constantly created scoring opportunities.

Fulshear had one chance in the first half as junior forward Alaa Hindi fired a shot past Gomez for a goal, but the official called him offsides.



Fulshear sophomore goalkeeper Abbie Moreno (No. 1), sophomore Amelia Hebert (No. 11) and sophomore Milena Sousa (No. 8) attempt to clear a ball away from the goal Friday at Guy K. Traylor Stadium against Columbia. Herald photo by Scott Reese Willey

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FULSHEAR BOYS KEEP ON ROLLING PAST SCARBOROUGH

by RYAN DUNSMORE rdunsmore@fbherald.com

OUSTON — Tuesday's Region III-4A area boys soccer playoff match between Fulshear and Houston Scarborough started with the teams feeling each other out much like a boxing match.

The Chargers were searching for the weak spots in the Spartan defense and once they found it they kept punching.

Fulshear delivered the knock down blows early and make sure Scarborough wouldn't get back up in the 12-2 win to advance to the region quarterfinals against fellow District 23-4A member Sealy.

"We relaxed a little bit in the first half," Fulshear head coach Art Trevino said. "But we talked about not doing that and playing a complete game.

"The kids came out in the second half and played with a killer instinct.

"We took care of business and we earned another 80 minutes." Quick passing set up Fulshear's first goal from senior Favour Ogieva in the 30th minute of the first half.

A free kick from Ogieva set up a rebound goal by senior Eliud Guevara in the 23rd minute.

Ogieva scored his second goal in the 19th minute.

Five minutes later a stellar cross from junior Isaiah Figueroa set up sophomore Bryce Pope for a goal.

The Scarborough defense couldn't clear a ball inside the

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penalty box and the ball found the feet of junior Quincy MacDonald for a goal in the ninth minute.

Figueroa completed the Fulshear scoring in the first half by making two defenders miss and finishing with a low shot to the far-front post in the fifth minute.

Scarborough jumped off the mat to score two quick goals just before halftime to set the score at 6-2.

The second half was all Fulshear.

Figueroa generated a free kick in the 32nd minute of the second half. After a fake kick attempt by Pope, Figueroa buried the ball in back of the net with his kick.

Another goal from Figueroa put Fulshear up 8-2 in the 31st minute.

The only negative of the second half for Fulshear was Figueroa earning a yellow card in the 28th minute.

A deep cross from Ogieva set up Pope for his second goal in the 26th minute.

It was Ogieva's turn again after a long pass from the midfield freed him for a one-on-one shot with the goalkeeper. He put the Chargers up 10-2 in the 20th minute.

Sophomore Javier Garcia finished a 3-on-2 break for Fulshear with a rocket through the goalkeeper's hands in the sixth minute for goal No. 11.A free kick from senior Ethan Jurkowski set up junior Albert Bradshaw for goal No. 12 in the third minute.



Fulshear senior forward Favour Ogieva battles with Sealy's George Regalado for possession of the ball in Friday's regional quarterfinal match at Rhodes Stadium in Katy. Herald photo by Chad Washington

CHARGERS CAGE SHARKS FOR 1ST PLAYOFF WIN

by RYAN DUNSMORE rdunsmore@fbherald.com

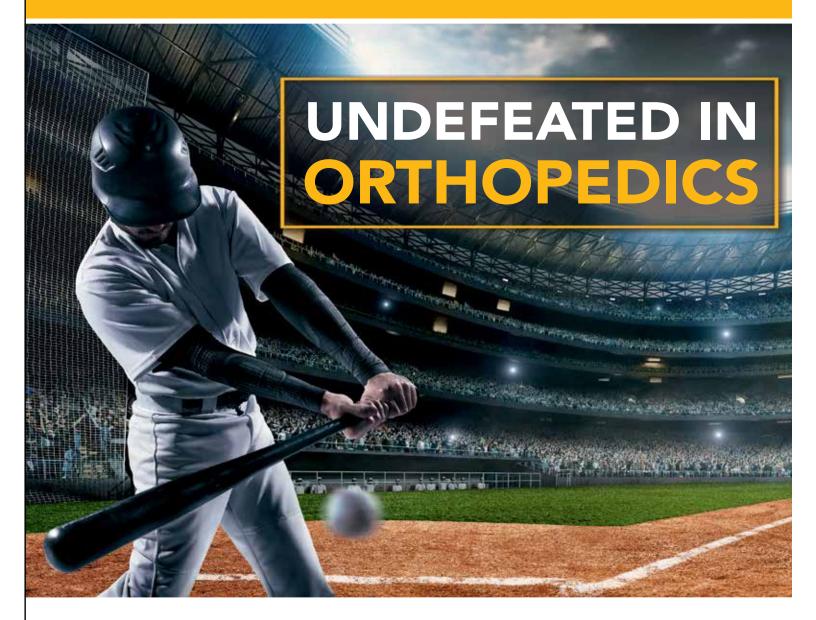
he Fulshear High school boys soccer team made the most of their top seed out of District 23-4A in their first playoff outing Friday at Rice Consolidated High School in Altair.

The Chargers defeated the Palacios Sharks 9-1 in their Region III-4A bi-district boys soccer playoff match Friday at Rice Veterans' Memorial Stadium.

Fulshear lead 4-0 at halftime en route to the program's first playoff victory.

Fulshear will play the winner of District 22-4A runner up Scarborough and District 21-4A third-place finisher Splendora.

The Scarborough-Splendora game was set for Friday.



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ADVANCING HEALTH

—GIRLS—

LADY ROUGHNECKS DEFEAT LADY CHARGERS 2-0 IN REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS

by **SCOTT REESE WILLEY** | swilley@fbherald.com

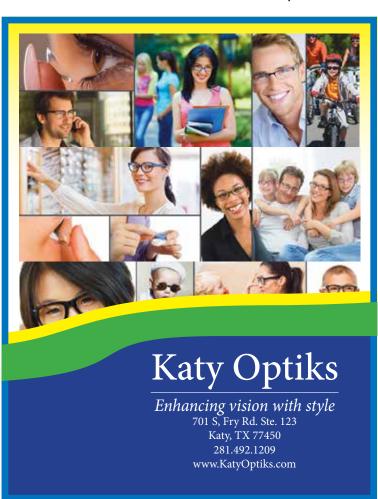
wo well-rehearsed set plays and a strategy designed to force opponents to stay on one end of the field helped the West Columbia Lady Roughnecks defeat the Fulshear Lady Chargers in the Region III-4A quarterfinals soccer playoffs match on Friday.

The visiting Lady Roughnecks (22-2-3) scored one goal in each half to end the Lady Chargers' (19-7-2) record-making season and advance to the state semi-final game. Senior forward Kaley Kaspar scored Columbia's first goal at 27:52 in the first half on a set piece when midfielder senior Paige Pullen sent a corner kick to a throng of players in front of the Fulshear goal and Kaspar booted it past defenders and the keeper alike.

Freshman forward Tori Aucoin thought she would take the kick but Kaspar called it in air and Aucoin hurdled the ball. The move seemed to have confused the Lady Chargers and left a hole straight to the net. "We communicate well. It's one of our strengths," said Kaspar, whose grandparents Ted and Dorothy Kaspar live in Rosenberg.

"(The set piece) worked just like we practiced it."

West Columbia was aided in the first half by a stiff wind at





Fulshear senior Favour Ogieva kicks the ball during a free kick against Houston Scarborough. Herald photo by Ryan Dunsmore.

their backs.

The Lady Roughnecks' strategy of moving all its players forward toward their opponent's goal also helped West Columbia.

At times, the Lady Roughnecks keeper was their only player on one half of the field.

"We played as good as we could against their offside trap," Fulshear head coach Mark Kluppel said after the game. "Tonight we tried some things in the first half (to overcome the trap) and some things in the second half, but nothing seemed to work."

The Lady Roughnecks took three direct shots at goal in the first nine minutes of play.

Fulshear keeper Abbie Moreno, a sophomore, prevented the Lady Roughnecks from scoring numerous times throughout the game.

The Lady Chargers took their first direct shot at goal at the 31:25 mark in the first half when senior midfield Maggie Letson sent the ball flying only to see the wind lift it and carry it over the top of the bar.

Fulshear continued to struggle in the second half, even with the wind at their backs.

Letson, Junior Ingris Cortez and sophomore Alexis Briceno each took several shots at goal in the second half, only to see the ball deflected, sail wide or caught by the Columbia keeper.

"We had plenty of chances (at goal) — corner shots and set pieces — but couldn't find the net," Kluppel said. "It was a tough game."

Columbia freshman Nevaeh Martinez scored the Lady Roughnecks' second goal of the night with 19:24 remaining in the game when she booted the ball from the sideline and it sailed over the fingertips of the Fulshear keeper.

The Lady Chargers finish their season with a 19-7-2 record overall. Fulshear won their first varsity district title with a 12-0 mark in District 23-4A and won their first two playoff games in program history.

"You didn't do anything wrong. You played a great game," Kluppel told his girls after the game. "You left everything on the field. I'm proud of you."

CHARGERS FIND OFFENSE IN 4-0 WIN TO **ADVANCE TO REGIONAL QUARTERS**

by **CHAD WASHINGTON** | cwashington@fbherald.com

YPRESS - The Fulshear girl's soccer team went from being a young nervous team to a confident team with plenty of potential with a 4-0 win over Splendora at the new Cypress Park High School field on Tuesday night.

The Chargers advance to the Region III-4A quarterfinals against Columbia, which dominated Liberty 11-0 on Tuesday. The match will take place on Friday at 7 p.m. at Traylor Stadium.

The Fulshear offense had opportunities all match long, but finally turned it on in the second half with three goals, taking advantage of its speed and passing against the Lady Cat defense.

Fulshear (19-6-2) looked nervous in the first 20 minutes of the match, getting a couple of nice shots on net, but missing the mark. But the young Chargers settled down and dominated the rest of the match.

Sophomore defender Amelia Hebert got Fulshear on the board 21 minutes into the match as she took a header off of a corner kick for a 1-0 lead.

Junior forward Ingris Cortez had chances all throughout the match to get on the scoresheet, but in the second half, she made a great pass into the box, where freshman forward Ellie Mikeska was there. Mikeska got the quick kick on the left side for the Chargers' second goal with 25 minutes left.

Then eight minutes later, Cortez finally got a goal of her own, putting one in off of a free kick to make it 3-0. Sophomore Lauren



The Fulshear girls soccer poses after its 4-0 win over Splendora in a Region III-4A area playoff match Tuesday at Cypress Park High School. Herald photo by Dave Sanders.



Top L-R: Dr. David Thurmond, Dr. Bryan Ping, Dr. Michelle Hessell Bottom L-R: Dr. Sadie Bowling, Dr. Cynthia Aswad



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Antwi got a goal with under three minutes left to round out the scoring.

"I was a little nervous and we didn't see how they played, but I think we deserved to win this game," Cortez said. "We've practiced lots of hours for this, we hurt ourselves for this, and we deserved this game."

Splendora (12-12-3) did have chances on offense as senior Hailey Rouse was able to dribble past a few Fulshear defenders. But the Lady Cats couldn't find a good shot as the Charger defenders challenged every Splendora opportunity with a good tackle or blocked shot.

"Rouse is a good player and we scouted her well. We tried to play her straight up for the first 30 minutes, and she was killing us," Fulshear head coach Mark Kluppel said.

"We put Hebert on her and made it difficult for them to find her, and that combined with (sophomore defender Mikayla Counce) and (senior defender Karsen Jones) in the back, they shut them down."

Next for Fulshear is Columbia, which has lost only two matches this season. The Chargers and Lady 'Necks met in January, playing to a 1-1 tie. Kluppel hopes that the confidence of his team can grow, but not too much to be focused to face a tough opponent in front of a friendly crowd.

"We played each other when both teams were totally beat up, so it will be a different game," Kluppel said. "We're looking forward to it to take the next step."

PLAYOFF WIN NO.1 IN THE BOOKS: FULSHEAR BLANKS SWEENY IN BI-DISTRICT GAME AT TRAYLOR

by RYAN DUNSMORE rdunsmore@fbherald.com

I ulshear High School head girls soccer coach Mark Kluppel reached the mountain top in his previous coaching stop and has quickly laid the groundwork for success with the Chargers — winning a district championship and reaching the playoffs in their two varsity seasons.

But coach Kluppel could only explain the pressures of playoff soccer. The Chargers had to learn for themselves what it took to thrive in the postseason.

The Fulshear girls did just that after 64 scoreless minutes with Sweeny on Thursday in the Region III-4A bi-district playoff match at Guy K.Traylor Stadium in Rosenberg.

The Chargers completely controlled the second half of action in en route to a 2-0 win for the program's first playoff victory.

"That was exciting," Kluppel said. "I think the girls had a lot more nerves then I anticipated.

"They were a bit nervous in the first half but the last 20 minutes of the game we played the way I think we can play."

Fulshear will play the winner of Friday's Furr-Splendora game in the area round.

The Chargers were able to get regular shots on goal in the first half, five in total, but none truly tested the Sweeny goalkeeper.

The Lady Bulldogs were content to drop back and limit Fulshear's chances at the goal.

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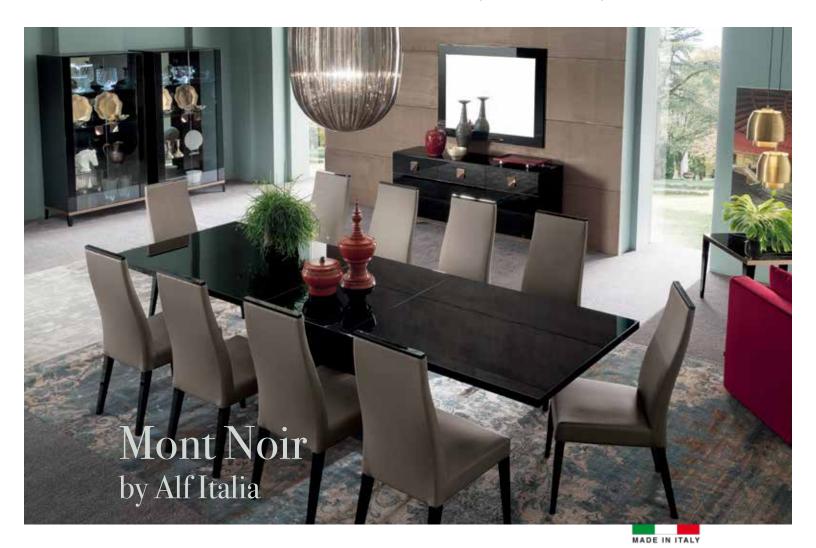
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Sweeny was able to get three shots on goal in the first half, but the Chargers clamped down in the second half.

Fulshear gave up only one dangerous free kick just outside the penalty box in the 10th minute of the second half for Sweeny's lone scoring opportunity.

The Chargers' first goal came with 16 minutes remaining.

A deep run by freshman forward Ellie Mikeska drew the Sweeny defense to the back line.

Mikeska was able to set up junior Ingris Cortez in front of the goalmouth with nothing standing between her and the goal except the goalie.

Cortez didn't miss given that kind of space. Fulshear led 1-0.

"I think we deserved (our first playoff win)," Cortez said. "We worked all off-season we worked out butts off to get here and it paid off in the end."

The Chargers continued to press the action while Sweeny scrambled to get on the offensive end of the field

The pressure broke Sweeny with just over a minute left in the game.

Junior Alexis Briceno set up junior Brittany Onyewuenyi for the Chargers' second goal to put the game away.

Mikeska was handed a yellow card with six minutes remaining and Cortez was sent off with a yellow carde inside the final minute.



Fulshear High School girls soccer head coach Mark Kluppel celebrates with his team after the Chargers collected their first playoff win in program history Thursday at Guy K. Traylor Stadium in Rosenberg. Fulshear defeated Sweeny 2-0. Herald photo by Dave Sanders





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Fulshear senior Eliud Guevara puts a shot past the Houston Scarborough goalkeeper. Herald photo by Ryan Dunsmore.



Junior Quincy MacDonald celebrates with teammates after a Fulshear goal. Herald photo by Dave Sanders.



The Fulshear High School girls soccer team celebrates with junior Ingris Cortez after Cortez scored the first goal of Thursday's Region III-4A bi-district girls soccer playoff game with Sweeny. Herald photo by Dave Sanders.



Fulshear junior forward Ingris Cortez controls the ball against Splendora's Sonia Garza during Tuesday's Region Ill-4A area playoff match Tuesday at Cypress Park High School. Herald photo by Dave Sanders.



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