



## 2020-2021 Fuddruckers State Soccer Championships

### Carlsbad Girls Soccer Wins First Championship

The first time in the title game proved to be a memorable one for the Carlsbad Cave-girls. Carlsbad lifted the blue trophy for the first time in the history of the program after beating Albuquerque High in the Class 5A final by a thrilling 1-0 score. The two-teams played to a scoreless tie through the first 40 minutes. The next 39 minutes were more of the same with zeroes on the board heading into the final minute. With time running out in regulation, Carlsbad junior Alexa Dugan had the perfect touch on a shot just outside the penalty area that found the upper-left corner of the net for the game-winning goal. "We've never done this in the history of our school so it's very exciting," said Dugan following the victory. It was the seventh shutout by Carlsbad this season. "We won this game because of our defense," said Carlsbad goalie Korrine Bradford. "We're not supposed to win, we're from the south and don't play soccer every day," said Carlsbad coach Misty Long. "It just goes to show you the commitment of these kids. It's unbelievable."



### St. Pius X Wins Back-to-Back Girls Soccer Championships

For the 2nd straight season, the St. Pius X girls soccer team took home top honors in Class 4A. The Sartans beat Hope Christian 2-1 in the final of the Fuddruckers Soccer State Championships. This was the third meeting between the two teams this season. On Championship Saturday, the Huskies jumped out to an early 1-0 lead in the 22nd minute on a goal by Hannah Gutierrez. Less than ten minutes later, St. Pius X scored the equalizer from Lauren Salas. The two teams reached halftime tied 1-1.



Nicole Taibbi scored the game-winner in the 55th minute. St. Pius X (10-0-2) finished the shortened season without a loss, while Hope Christian's (10-2-1) only two losses this year were at the hands of the Sartans. It's the tenth overall state title for the program and third for head coach David Sullivan, Jr. "This year is special," said Sullivan. "It was a year that wasn't promised. We relied on our experience from 2019 and it pulled us through. We only trailed in a game this whole year for a total of 47 minutes. It's a fantastic group."

### **St. Michael's Girls Soccer back on Top for First Time Since 2009**

St. Michael's jumped out to an early lead and never looked back against Socorro as they beat the Warriors 4-1 in the Class A-3A title game of the 2020-2021 Fuddruckers Soccer State Championships. Top-seeded St. Michael's (8-0-1) scored in the first nine minutes of the match on a goal from Rachael Morgan, the first of her two goals on the day. Elsa Smith would score minutes later to give St. Michael's a 2-0 halftime lead. Morgan would score her second goal early in the second half to give St. Michael's a three-goal cushion. Olivia Farrar would make it 4-0 with 25 minutes left in the match and would



win by a 4-1 count. St. Michael's goalie Milena Keene, a junior, allowed just two goals all season. "It's such a great feeling, we've come so close for so many years and it's unbelievable," said Keene. It's the first state title for St. Michael's since 2009 after championship game losses in 2018, 2015 and 2014. Socorro finished the year with a 7-4-1 record.

### **Rio Rancho Earns First Boys Soccer State Title**

For the first time in the history of the program, the Rio Rancho boys soccer team finished the year as a state champion. All the Rams needed was one goal to beat defending champ Albuquerque High 1-0 in the Class 5A final of the Fuddruckers Soccer State Championships. This was Rio Rancho's first time appearing in the final while Albuquerque High (7-1) was in the championship for the fifth time in six seasons. The Rams (10-2) got their lone goal from a pair of brothers. In the 68th minute of the match, Jamal Bynam fed his brother Lamar Bynam who put it over the top of Albuquerque High goalie Julian Lucero for the only offense they would need.



"Credit to Albuquerque High, what a well-coached team," said Rio Rancho head coach John Shepard who led the Rams to their first soccer blue trophy since the school opened in 1997. "Our toughness and heart won this one." The match



was the final one for Albuquerque High head coach Lucien Starzynski who stepped down at the end of the season.

### **Albuquerque Academy Boys Soccer Captures the Blue Trophy for the 9th Time**

Albuquerque Academy and Lovington provided some late fireworks in a thrilling Class 4A final of the 2020-2021 Fuddruckers Soccer State Championships. When the match ended, the Chargers took their spot back on top of the soccer world with a 2-1 overtime win over the top-seeded Wildcats. This was Lovington's first appearance in the final and they were going to make the most of it. The two teams battled to a 0-0 halftime score. In the second half, Academy's Neven Zapatka gave Academy a 1-0 lead at the 59-minute mark following a corner kick from his teammate Jesus Bar-  
raza. Zapatka's goal looked to be the only one the Chargers would need, until the final minute of regulation. With seconds remaining, the Wildcats (11-1) pulled out the equivalent of a half-court three-point shot at the buzzer. Lovington's Lucas Contreras lined up a direct-kick from just inside the midfield line and fired a shot that ended up in the back of the net forcing overtime, 1-1. Academy (10-2) recovered quickly and ended the match less than a minute into overtime. Academy junior forward Oliver Kumar took a pass from Case Manifold and knocked in the game-winner, handing Academy their fourth state title in the last six seasons. "We had just come off that tying goal with less than ten seconds to go and I didn't want to keep this game going too long," said Kumar. "Going out in the semifinals last year was so tough, but winning it feels so good."



### **Sandia Prep Holds Off Bosque in A-3A Boys Soccer Title Game**

The Sandia Prep Sundevils scored a pair of second-half goals against rival Bosque School to win the Fuddruckers Boys Class A-3A Soccer State Championship by a 2-0 score. It was a physical final between the Sundevils (10-1-1) and Bobcats (7-3) who played a scoreless first 40 minutes. Late in the second-half, Bosque's Davis Moran fouled senior Eric Presura at the top of the corner box. Presura's penalty kick proved to be the game winner. Sandia Prep would get one more goal with less than two minutes to play. "They bottled us up in the first half," said Sandia Prep veteran coach Tommy Smith when describing the matchup with Bosque. "I think their game plan was to keep it 0-0 and one goal was probably going to win the game because it was so intense and I told my guys we had to find a way to get that goal." It's the 19th blue trophy for Sandia Prep and their 6th since 2010.

