



2020 5A Soccer State Champs

EARNED!



Sarah Grace Moore and Anna Kate Trost hold the Soccer 5A State Championship trophy after their win against East Central. Photo by Aubrey Claire Norris

Soccer girls go back to back

By Sean Boney



The team after their win. Photo by Aubrey Norris

The girls soccer team is back to back 5A state champs after a 2-1 victory against East Central on February 8th.

The girls got an early lead in the 10th minute after a scrappy shot courtesy of Julia Perkins slid into the far corner of the goal. The game continued on with Lafayette seeing the majority of possession and chances. However, their dominance only lasted a mere 10 minutes, as East Central pulled it level in the 20th minute with a 25 yard screamer into the bottom left corner, an impossible shot for goalkeeper Caitlyn Rhea to stop. Going into the half, it would seem the tide had turned, as East Central began dominating late in the first.

The lady dores came out gunning in the second half though, and pulled ahead 2-1 in the 57th minute with a floated cross from Katelin Johnson being squared away by 8th grader Caroline Perkins.

The lady dores made the long trip back to Oxford and did a couple of victory laps around the square courtesy of Oxford Police Department in front of a modest crowd of supporters.

The lady dores were favored

to win state again this year after only losing 4 seniors going into the 19/20 season, only two of which were starters. Next season however, Coach Melinda Scruggs will have a slightly more demanding problem to solve, as three of her four starting defenders, Bayleigh Moore, Sarah Grace Moore, and Anna Kate Trost, will be graduating.

Going into next season, the team will have a favorable balance of youth and experience, as Scruggs has a large group of graduating seniors for next season, yet she frequently placed freshman and even middle schoolers into her starting elevens. Many of these young players will be going into next season already being part of two state championship winning teams.

The girls' schedule was much more intensive this year compared to last year. They played some of the biggest and best 6A teams in the state including Tupelo, Brandon, Richland, and rival Oxford High School, who at the time was nationally ranked.

The Lady Dores finished with a record of 21-4 and will look to complete the threepeat next season.



Freshman Julia Perkins scores first goal of the game. Photo by Collyn Lewis



Senior Bayleigh Moore gets emotional after her last high school game. Photo by Joy Thompson