

Ravenswood soccer champ

By BILL HARKE

Perhaps it was only fitting the South Peninsula Athletic League soccer championship game should be decided on overtime.

After all, Ravenswood and Woodside proved to be about as equal as two teams could be before Friday's game, splitting the first two times they played with the Trojans relying on offense and the Wildcats on defense.

So it really shouldn't have come as a surprise when they ended regulation play tied 2-2 at Terremere Field, and Ravenswood pulled out a 3-2 win.

Ravenswood, by virtue of its win, will represent the SPAL in the Central Coast Section playoffs which begin Thursday at P.A.L. Stadium in San Jose.

The Trojans will face Cupertino, winner of the Fremont Athletic League and one of the teams in the area.

In nonleague this year the Pioneers met Woodside and eked out a 1-0 win, and they were the only team beside Ravenswood to beat the Cats this year.

For the first half it looked like Woodside would get a chance for revenge against Cupertino, as it dominated play and took a 2-0 lead in the second quarter.

With just over a minute gone in the period a Cat shot was cleared, but right to the feet of Tim Woodward, who rifled it past Ravenswood goalie Tony Soria who was screened out of the play.

Then with 1:09 left sophomore Rick Anderson had all but about a foot of his angle cut off by Soria, but still managed to put the ball into the corner of the net.

Ravenswood, which used its best effort of the year to beat Woodside 3-1

Tuesday night and win the Shaughnessy playoff after the Cats used a 2-1 win over the Trojans to claim the round-robin title, appeared disjointed in the first half, as its favorite play, the give and go, wasn't working.

A large reason for this was the play of center halfback Jay Larkin, who shadowed high-scoring Rafael Miranda, and each time Miranda got the ball Larkin was there.

The one time Miranda managed to get past Larkin, fullback Pete McLaughlin caught him from behind and stole the ball.

Larkin wasn't the only one to play well for the Cats in the first half, though, as they used wings Steve Heller and Jamie Enomoto more often, and better, than they have all year and the pair responded with excellent passing and both just missed scores in the first period.

But the tide of the game quickly turned in the third period. With 15 seconds gone, Ravenswood's Tony Soss took an eight yard shot which Woodside goalie Scott Mosher made a fine save of, only to see the Trojans Miquel Lopez get his foot on the ball to squirt it in.

Five minutes later Miranda, who led the SPAL in scoring with 12 goals, dribbled the length of the field, literally hand-fighting with a Woodside fullback, moved to the middle inside of the field and used a delicate touch to nudge the ball past onrushing Mosher to tie the score.

That was all the legitimate scoring in regulation play, but Woodside came awfully close to a goal when Woodward and Soria battled for a ball in front of the net, it went in but Woodward was called for a hand ball.

There were no real scoring opportunities after that as both defenses did a good job keeping the ball away from the nets and forced the game into overtime.

There was just one real scoring opportunity in the first five minute overtime and Ravenswood capitalized on it as Juvenal Sandoval took a free kick from 25 yards out, flipped it over the defense and Miranda kicked it past Mosher.

For the remainder of that overtime and the next one (when a game is tied at the end of regulation time two five minute overtimes are played regardless of how many goals are scored in them) Ravenswood reverted to defensive play while the Cats' offense controlled the ball most of the time.

But some good play by fullbacks Sandoval and Russ Crane along with the over-all play of Sloss, who had his best game of the year kept the ball away from Soria and the goal and the Trojans hung on for the championship.



(Times photo by Reg McGovern)

Heads up play

Tom Vanderhoof (13) of Woodside High heads the ball away from two Ravenswood players in SPAL soccer finale. Ravenswood won 3-2.

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Ravenswood	0	0	2	0	1	0	3
Woodside	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
R: Miranda 2, Lopez, W: Woodward, R: Anderson.							