

Girls Soccer

Stevenson Nips Brighton In Nailbiter

Livonia Stevenson put the finishing touches on an incredible season by nipping No. 1 Brighton, 1-0, to claim the Class A girls soccer MHSAA championship at Plymouth Canton.

No. 2 Stevenson (21-0-2) posted 22 shutouts during the season and yielded one goal in its 23 games. Brighton also came into the game unbeaten, but closed at 22-1-2.

It was the first title for coach Jim Kimble, but the fourth in school history. Stevenson won titles in 1983, 1985 and 1990.

"I can't describe the season any other way except 'team,'" Kimble said. "We got another restart goal and the defense played its bend-don't-break method. Brighton put a lot of pressure on us and it's been a long time since a team put us back on our heels. They kept coming and coming, but they couldn't score."

Stevenson got the goal it needed when senior Nicole Tobin headed in a line-drive corner kick off the foot of Sarah Wittrock from the right corner with 4:29 left in the first half.

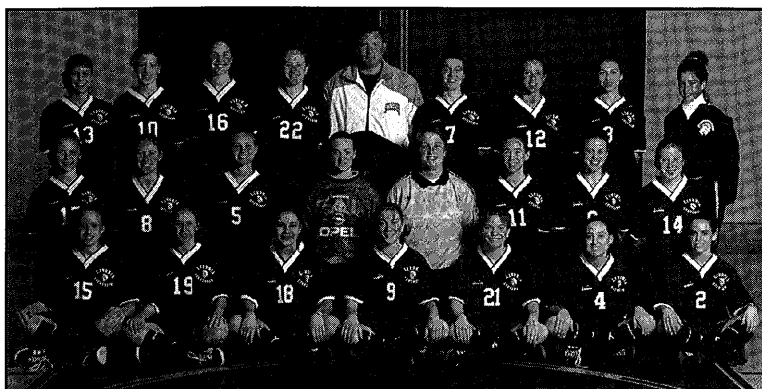
"I hit it with my head. It didn't go off of any defenders," Tobin said. "Sarah had a beautiful corner kick. It was by design that I went to the near post and Sarah put the ball right there."

Brighton had a 13-12 shot advantage, but Stevenson's smothering defense denied any high-quality offensive shots.

Jenny Barker earned the shutout for Stevenson, making seven saves. Sharon Sadowski made eight saves for Brighton.

*By John K. Schroder
The Detroit News*

LIVONIA STEVENSON 1997 CLASS A CHAMPIONS



FIRST ROW: L to R — Paula Sherub, Sara Lizbinski, Leah McGrath, Michelle Vettrano, Liz Krawczyk, Melissa Jacobs, Julie Murray. **SECOND ROW:** Becky Peterson, Anne Fedrigo, Jenny Schmidt, Katie Westfall, Jenny Barker, Cheryl Fox, Brianna Roy, Nicole Tobin. **THIRD ROW:** Susan Bear, Sarah Wittrock, Lanette Moss, Allison Campbell, Head Coach Jim Kimble, Melissa Backus, Stacey Nastase, Andrea Sied, Assistant Coach Ragen Coyne. **MISSING:** Assistant Coach Laura Fedrigo.

Class A Finals Held at Canton Community Schools June 7, 1997

ROAD TO THE FINALS

REGIONALS (May 30 or 31, 1997)

Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central 2, East Lansing 0 (at Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central)
Livonia Stevenson 6, Livonia Churchill 0 (at Southgate Anderson)
Brighton 3, Utica Eisenhower 2 (at Davison)
Troy 4, Rochester Adams 3 (OT) (at Rochester)

SEMIFINALS (June 4, 1997)

Livonia Stevenson 5, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central 0 (at Jackson)
Brighton 2, Troy 1 (at Utica Ford)

FINALS June 7, 1997

Livonia Stevenson 1, Brighton 0

FINAL GAME SUMMARY

Brighton	0	0	—	0
Livonia Stevenson	1	0	—	1

SCORING SUMMARY

First Half: 1. LS—Nicole Tobin (Sarah Wittrock), 35:31.

STATISTICS

Brighton		Livonia Stevenson
8	Shots	9
8	Saves	6
10	Fouls	12
6	Corner Kicks	6

GOALIES: Jenny Barker (LS), Sharon Sadowski (B).

FINAL SEASON RECORDS: Livonia Stevenson 21-0-2, Brighton 22-1-2.