



Crean Lutheran girls squeeze into Division 5 final

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IRVINE – Crean Lutheran sophomore **Jocelyn Accardy** chipped a shot past the Gabrielino of San Gabriel goalkeeper in the final minutes of a CIF-SS Division 5 semifinal Tuesday to give the Saints a 1-0 victory and propel them to their first finals appearance.

Crean Lutheran (18-5-3) will play Viewpoint of Calabasas in the final on Friday or Saturday at a site to be determined. Viewpoint defeated Palm Desert, 2-0, Tuesday.

With two minutes remaining in a scoreless game, Accardy's hustle helped her team win the game.

end on a goal kick.

Senior goalkeeper **Hillary Beall** sent the ball booming into the Eagles'

"She kicked it up and I was like, 'OK, I'm just going to run for it,'" Accardy said. "I only have two more minutes left."

A routine play quickly turned into a 40-yard dash between Accardy and the Gabrielino defender. Accardy overtook the defender and then faced junior goalkeeper **Alexis Hernandez**, who had come out of the goal to intercept the ball.

"I kicked it with my left foot and it chipped the keeper and it went in," Accardy said.

Gabrielino (16-4-2) saw its season end with that goal.

"We had our chances," Gabrielino coach **Rafa Moran** said. "In the middle of the second half, we had a couple of breakaways one-on-one that we weren't able to take advantage of. You know you don't take advantage of your opportunities, you're asking for trouble."

The Eagles had one last chance at an equalizer after Accardy's goal. Junior forward **Ciannah Correa** took a free kick from 21 yards away. It avoided the Saints' two walls but was an easy save for Beall.

Moran said his team needed to do more throughout the game to challenge Beall.

"When you're playing against a high-level goalkeeper like theirs is, you have to do better than just give the ball right into their hands," he said.

Crean Lutheran coach **Stephen Jennings** agreed that opponents would have to do more to get past Beall.

"Our defense is so good," he said. "If they shoot from outside the 18, there's no one scoring on our goalie."

While the trip to the final is a first for Crean Lutheran, it's a familiar spot for Jennings, who last year took the Saddleback Valley Christian boys to the Division 7 final, where it lost, 5-1, to Fillmore.

Jennings said when he arrived, the girls didn't have the mindset to believe they could make it this far. So he tried to "instill a focus and a mindset of, you know, they're better than they think they are."