

Foothill trims back Torrey Pines

By Matt Schwab
Tri-Valley Herald

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DANVILLE — For all the goals that got away on a busy Friday at the Mustang Soccer Complex, Foothill High's girls soccer team did get one fortuitous bounce in its showdown against San Diego Section powerhouse Torrey Pines.

Falcons sophomore Alesha Blair ripped a shot off the goal post to her right in the 23rd minute, and the ball bounced right back to her in the middle. She made good on her second chance, shooting into the opposite side of the goal to give Foothill a 1-0 win over the defending tournament champs in the Tri-Valley Classic.

Foothill, which earlier Friday beat Carondelet 1-0, advances to the championship match today against Monte Vista in the Invitational Early Division. Kickoff is noon at the Mustang Soccer Complex.

San Ramon Valley will face Torrey Pines in the consolation final also at noon.

The Mustangs had an impressive day in the 47-team event with two shutouts, beating Santa Cruz 5-0 and Castro Valley 2-0. San Ramon Valley, meanwhile, dropped a physical battle to Castro Valley 3-1 before tying Santa Cruz 1-1.

Foothill coach Ron Lambert raved about the Falcons' play against Torrey Pines, especially in the first half when they created their typical array of chances. Torrey Pines upped the pressure in the second half, but the Falcons defense did not crack.

Foothill had a penalty-kick attempt stopped by Torrey Pines goalkeeper Annie Heaton, bound for the University of San Diego, and the Falcons missed a sitter from point-blank range, but considering the caliber of the opponent, Lambert was thrilled with the result.

Blair also had the game-winning goal against Carondelet. After the late game a shivering Blair said the Falcons realized the competition would be hard in the Tri-Valley Classic but they "were up to the challenge."

Of the lucky bounce before her game-winning goal, she just sort of shrugged.

"We're not the luckiest team, but that one was on our side," she said.

Foothill senior outside left defender Sophie Metz stood up well to Torrey Pines' heavy pressure as it favored attacking to its right.

"We were just beaten to the ball, basically," Torrey Pines coach Dennis Costello said. "They were just the better team."

Monte Vista 2, Castro Valley 0: The Mustangs got a goal and an assist from Cori McGovern, a goal from Sami Schrakamp and tremendous goalkeeping from Jesse May in a win over the Trojans.

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