



Warrior Run's Laura Bastian wins a header during the Defenders' District 4 Class AA championship game against Montoursville Saturday.

*Barb Krohn/Standard Journal*

## **A bitter ending**

*Standard Journal*

*Monday, November 4, 2013*

*By Barb Krohn*

### **Defenders fall in district final**

LOYALSOCK TOWNSHIP—The Warrior Run girls soccer team fell 1-0 to Montoursville Saturday in the District 4 Class AA Championship. With that loss the most decorated class in Defenders school history ended their careers on the high school pitch.

So of course there were tears. And not just from the players.

When asked after the game how to describe Laura Bastian, Madison Bennett, Chloe Eisenhuth, Sarah Grow and Mackenzie Hays the calm and collected Warrior Run coach Jen Allen was hit with the emotion of the moment.

"I don't have words to say how awesome they are," said the four-year Defenders coach.

Words or no words it was apparent in Saturday's championship game just what those seniors were made of and how they had

game into overtime. Their season ended, 14-6-1, when Montoursville's Kristen O'Malley who had been dangerous all night, finally was able to cash in.

"I think it was a pretty even game," said Allen. "I think it could have gone either way." "They played us really well," said Montoursville coach Adam Scheibeler. "They defended really well and put us under pressure."

What Warrior Run did was a tribute to both coaches Allen and Alecia Gold as well as the seniors. The Defenders started the season, after all, with their seniors and a lot of youth.

"The (seniors) are just phenomenal leaders," said the Warrior Run coach.

And they led in many ways. Outside back Bennett became a true defensive force this year. "Being a senior I thought I needed to help them become better players. So I had to become a better player."

Hays, who never did win a starting job, found other ways to support her team.

"I've learned a lot over the years," she said. "My spot might not be on the field, but I'm there for (the rest of them.)"

Bastian, who has been as outstanding at center back as any player can be, had freshman Gabby Heiss playing. And mentoring Heiss for the future was something No. 20 took seriously.

"I feel like she was my freshman," said Bastian. "She played really well tonight. I told her after the game that she's going to be an awesome leader next year."

Grow was consoling freshman Tori Ross after the loss. "She's my soccer twin," explained the two-year co-captain. "I told her she made me proud and to work hard."

"We wanted to keep playing," said Eisenhuth. "But I hope our play helps build them up."

"I hope that we helped them off the field too," said Grow adding, "All five of us wouldn't be what we are without the coaches."

"I'm not sad we lost," said Allen. "I'm said it's over."

Montoursville, now 18-2-1, will entertain District 3 runner-up Trinity on Tuesday at Loyalsock.

District 4 Class AA Championship  
at Loyalsock

Montoursville 1, Warrior Run 0 (OT)

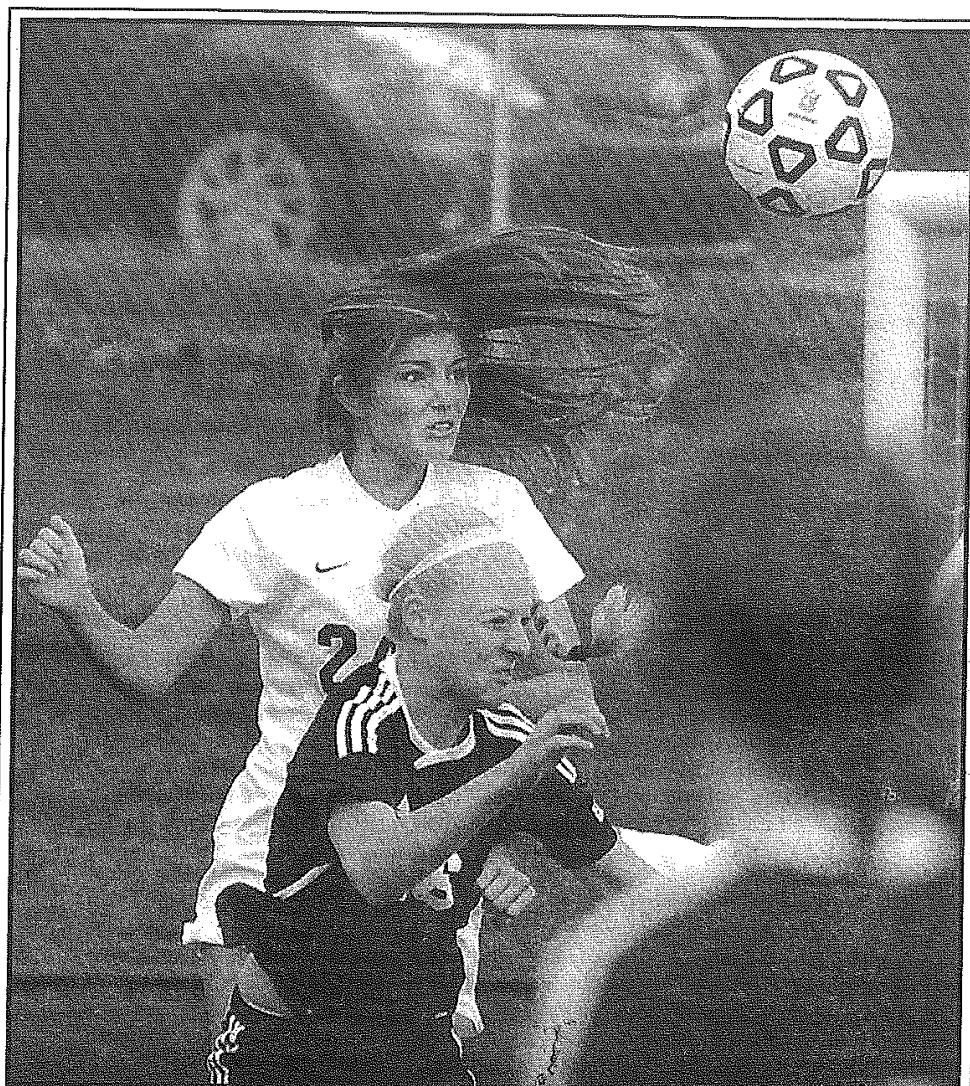
First overtime: (Mont) Kristen O'Malley, 13:51

Shots: Montoursville 11, Warrior Run 5.

Corners: Warrior Run 5, Montoursville 4.

Saves: Warrior Run (Madi Welliver) 7. Montoursville (Marissa Folk) 2.

Records: Warrior Run 14-6-1. Montoursville is 18-2-1.



Warrior Run's Madison Bennett skies over Montoursville's Kirsten O'Malley Saturday. *Barb Krohn/Standard Journal*