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## Girls Soccer

The Quakers entered the 10-team PAISAA Tournament as the sixth seed and headed to third-seeded Agnes Irwin for a Nov. 8 quarterfinals showdown, the second time in a week the team faced the Owls on the road.

After a 2-1 win on Nov. 1, PC got the same result this time around, but in much different fashion. The Quakers struck first, getting a first-half goal from senior Dani Shipon off a corner kick from freshman Lucy Sokoloff, allowing the girls to take a 1-0 lead into halftime. Agnes Irwin didn't go down without a fight, tying the game with under 20 minutes to play in regulation, ultimately sending the game to penalty kicks.

Junior Maia Kafer returned to play goalie in the game after missing the last week with an illness, and head coach Ashley Maher said the Quakers had been practicing all week with senior Bella Toomey in net. The team had specifically prepared for the prospect of penalty kicks, so when that scenario actualized, Maher decided to put Toomey between the posts for the shootout.

"I was super impressed with Bella in practice, so we made the decision to switch goalies after 80 minutes," Maher said. "It was Maia's first game back and while she played great, I felt like she was a little tired, so even though it was a lot of pressure on Bella, I thought she was up for it."

Toomey made one great save on an Agnes Irwin shot, while another attempt missed after hitting the crossbar. Freshman Carly Lewinski shot first and scored for the Quakers, and her sister, junior Haley Lewinski, also converted her attempt. Freshman Lauren Bucksar hit the crossbar on a near-goal, and junior Olivia Linus, "with ice in her veins," according to Maher, scored, while Shipon misfired on her attempt. After Toomey stood tall in goal, Maher tabbed her to be PC's sixth shooter, and Toomey converted to win the game. PC scored four times in the shootout, compared to three for the Owls.

"Bella killed it during the game on the field, then we put her in net for the shootout and she wins the game as our sixth shooter," Maher said. "It was a great experience for her and our entire team, getting to rush the field ... it was like the end of a Disney movie."

It was an especially validating win for the Quakers (8-8-1), who have dealt with so many injuries this season that Maher has had to make lineup adjustments in virtually every single game depending on who was available to play. Now, the team advances to the semifinals on Nov. 10 when it travels to No. 2 Episcopal, who knocked off GA 4-0 in the quarterfinals. It will be another opportunity for the Quakers to play EA (15-2-1), who beat Penn Charter 5-0 on Oct. 4 and 2-1 on Oct. 28. Episcopal has not lost a game since Sept. 29.

"They are a super talented, amazing team," Maher said. "We'll try to keep everything in a positive light and leave it all on the field, because at the end of the day that's all we can do. Our grit and competitiveness have gotten us through a lot of difficult games. It's hard to beat a team three times, so maybe we can have a big upset. It's what we're hoping for, because it would be amazing after the whirlwind season we've had. Soccer is unpredictable, so we will keep working hard and hope to get the result we think we deserve."

A win would send PC to next week's championship game on Nov. 16 to face the winner of SCH Academy vs. Westtown. Of course, the Quakers also have a huge game on Saturday morning for PC/GA Day, with PC looking for a season-sweep of the Patriots after a 3-2 win on Oct. 11. The rematch is set to begin at 11:45 a.m.

"It's our most exciting game of the season," Maher said. "It means everything to our seniors. The excitement leading up to the game makes it feel like it's the state final, and I hope the excitement and energy of the day is enough to refuel us. It'll be a great environment for our girls to play in, and nobody ever wants to be the team that takes an 'L' on this day. Friday we'll have them rest and take care of their bodies following Episcopal, and we'll be ready to play on Saturday. And hopefully next week as well."