

Sports

McSorleys propel Delbarton to title

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UNION – Nora May, Liam and Brendan McSorley have been hearing about the championship moment around the family dinner table their entire lives. But now, Liam and Brendan can tell the story.

The brothers combined on three goals as Delbarton defeated Christian

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Brothers, 4-1, to seal its undefeated season with the NJSIAA Non-Public A title.

Brendan McSorley, a Green Wave sophomore, scored twice. His toe poke

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Delbarton celebrates its fifth NJSIAA Non-Public A soccer title in six seasons after defeating Christian Brothers, 4-1, on Sunday. ED PAGLIARINI/CORRESPONDENT

Delbarton

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off a scramble three minutes into the second half tied the match. Following senior Ethan Fabricant's bouncing ball which turned out to be the game-winner, the younger McSorley added a second-chance insurance goal.

Senior Liam McSorley scored Delbarton's final goal, putting back a rebound off the post with 6:21 left.

"It's great to be out here with him," Liam McSorley said, as teammates John Gerard and Kian Alberto dumped bottles of water on his younger brother.

"I've never seen someone love soccer as much as my brother."

Christian Brothers junior Dominic Bellomo shocked Delbarton by putting the first shot of the game into the back of the net. Bellomo launched the ball from 27 yards out, soaring into the upper corner in the third minute to give

the defending champs (20-3-1) a lead.

It was just the third time the Green Wave had trailed this season, having gone down a goal at Mendham until halftime on Sept. 26 (2-1 win), and to Montville on Oct. 11 (3-1 win).

"We got the goal, and for some reason the game became disjointed," Colts coach Tom Mulligan said. "We never got back in our rhythm. ... With this team, I'll take a goal any time, and I'll take my chances for 80 minutes. We get a goal, and then the game changes. I guess Delbarton forced us to change our game."

But the Green Wave didn't see it that way, at least not at first. They turned up the pressure, including three point-blank chances which were saved by Colts senior goalkeeper Shane Keenan and then cleared by defender Kevin Brennan.

But Delbarton (21-0-1) wasn't able to settle down until after a halftime talk.

"I don't think we realized it was 1-0 until the second half," said Brendan

McSorley, a Randolph resident. "We were kind of panicking in the first half. ... We knew we needed a goal to get the state championship. We wanted one. To get four was terrific."

The victory adds a new chapter to the NJSIAA championship history of both Delbarton and the McSorleys. The Green Wave have won 13 Non-Public titles, five of the past six. They also claimed the "quadruple crown:" the Delbarton Invitational, NJAC-United, Morris County Tournament, and NJSIAA titles.

Guy McSorley won his own Group IV title with Kearny in 1981, and said he "groomed" his sons for soccer. For the elder McSorley, the sick feeling while watching is the same as in his playing days. The pride watching his sons lift the trophy was different, but welcome.

"We always talk about that game," Brendan McSorley said. "To get a chance to be in a state final is amazing. To win it is the best feeling I've ever had."