

Boys Soccer: Nick Sommer and St. Charles North stay hot, advance to regional final

North Stars to play Schaumburg for third regional title in four years

By **BILL STONE** - sports@kcchronicle.com

8:08 am

ST. CHARLES – St. Charles North senior Nick Sommer eventually earned a regular starting spot at outside defender this season by giving that extra effort.

Sometimes that includes helping offensively.

“I try to, yeah,” Sommer said with a smile.

When Sommer pushed forward Tuesday, he set up the goal that gave the North Stars the lead for good in their 2-1 victory over Addison Trail in the Class 3A St. Charles North Regional semifinals.

The 13th-seeded North Stars (10-4-3) will go after their third regional title in four years at 5:30 p.m. Friday against No. 12 Schaumburg (9-9-1).

The North Stars are riding a five-game winning streak after an 0-4-3 stretch that caused their deceptive lower seed. Tuesday is the only time they’ve allowed a goal during the streak.

“We’ve been going really well the last couple of games,” Sommer said. “I think it’s all because of we’re really pushing ourselves. We’re trying our hardest in practice, practice like you play, and our coaches are really pushing us to do well. I think we go into games confident.”

Junior forward Luke Persenico scored off Sommer’s cross 6:48 before halftime. Junior Jared Sinnaeve scored from Persenico’s pass off a corner kick for a 2-0 lead with 21:16 remaining.

Fourth-seeded Addison Trail (13-5-2) didn’t go away quietly. The Blazers’ Juan Pablo Jienez headed home a free kick with 14:25 remaining.

In the 79th minute came back-to-back shots that hit the crossbar and posts – and somehow neither potential equalizer crossed the line.

“At the end of the day, we found a way to move on so we’re happy about that,” St. Charles North coach Eric Willson said. “I would love to see us maybe manage that game a little bit

differently (to finish). You've also got to say Addison Trail is a fantastic team so it was a matter of time before they were going to start sparking some of their offense, too."

Good fortune helps, too.

Sinnaeve's goal on his 17-yard blast from the far right sideline struck the left post, went across the goalmouth, hit the left post and went into the net.

As for the Blazers' tries to tie, outside defender Ray Fischer rebounded a blast off the crossbar and left post before the ball was cleared to the right side. Senior standout Leo Acosta then arced a blast off the inside part of the left post.

"The one (by Acosta) where it went over my head, I thought for sure it was going in and then it hit the post," Curran said.

"Just the relief that I had on my face came when it came off and didn't go into the goal was a lot. I'm proud of the boys the way we played and stuck it out and got the win. I'm excited to see what comes next."

Persenico now has nine goals. Senior Faizan Mohiuddin's perseverance regained possession in the far right corner. Mohiuddin passed back to Sommer for the cross.

"I was cutting across and it was a perfect ball, right onto my foot," Persenico said. "All I had to do was make a touch in front. (Sommer) did all of the work."

Curran did most of the work down the stretch. Surviving the final push came with starting senior inside defender Xander Jao sidelined the final 6:25 after his face collided with Curran's shoulder.

"The guys have really started to play for each other. When you're doing that, it just means a whole lot more to you and we're playing as well as want to right now," Willson said.

Copyright © 2019 Kane County Chronicle. All rights reserved.
