

Perfect!

21-0 Lock Haven Tops FIU in Two Overtimes

By JIM CARSON

Herald Writer

For a freshman who didn't get into the game until there were 10 minutes left — and then because of another player's injury — Tom Kretsch did OK for himself. And for the Lock Haven (Pa.) State soccer team.

Kretsch slipped a shot past Florida International University goalie Henry Westmoreland in the first minute of the second overtime to give Lock Haven a 1-0 victory and the NCAA Division II national championship Saturday at FIU.

The Bald Eagles, competing in Division II for the first time after winning national championships in 1977 and '78 in Division III, finished their season 21-0.

FIU, appearing in the national tournament for the first time, ended its season with a 13-4 record. The Sunblazers, who had not lost at home since 1978, had an 11-game winning streak snapped.

In the consolation game, Chico (Cal.) State defeated Southern Connecticut State, 2-1, on penalty kicks after two scoreless overtime periods. The regulation score was 1-1.

THE Lock Haven-FIU game was scoreless in regulation and neither team scored in the first 15-minute sudden-death overtime.

In the second overtime, Lock Haven kicked off, but the ball was stolen by FIU. The Sunblazers moved into Lock Haven territory, but Lock Haven forward Neil Johnson stole the ball just behind the midfield stripe and spotted Kretsch open on FIU's side with just one man to beat.

Kretsch took the long pass, maneuvered past FIU defender Greg Anderson and kicked the ball past a diving Westmoreland about 15 feet from the goal.

"It was a play that should have scored sooner," said Lock Haven Coach Mike Parker. "We thought the back of their defense was a little weak. They took a lot of chances.

"But they were a very, very tough side. In fact, they controlled the ball most of the game. But we have been in that situation before, where we did not control the ball that often. But we don't look at stats, just the scoreboard."

Kretsch said he beat the FIU defense because he was fresh. "I

thought I could beat them with my speed because I had been sitting on the bench most of the game and I was very rested," he said. "On the goal, I just broke downfield after Neil got the ball and looked for the pass. Neil put it right in there, I got ahead of the defender and waited for the goalkeeper to commit himself.

"I wasn't nervous at all when I came into the game. I really didn't expect to score the winning goal, but I knew that if I got the chance, I wouldn't blow it."

FIU COACH Karl Kremser said his team was out-hustled on the goal. "The guy broke past our defense, got a nice pass and that was it," he said. "That's the way the game was from the second half on. We went out and pounded the hell out of them in the first half, but didn't control the game nearly as well after that.

"They were a tough team, but I don't think they were any tougher than we were. We clearly outplayed them. But they got the goal."

FIU outshot Lock Haven, 18-13. The Sunblazers had several scoring opportunities in the first half. Once, forward George Moyssidis headed a ball that appeared to go into the net, but it actually hit the side of the net.

"That one scared me very badly," Parker said. "If they had scored that goal, we would have been in trouble. They had the momentum then and it would have been difficult to come back."

"But we're an opportunistic team and we waited patiently for our chance. It took us a while to get it, but when we got it, we didn't waste it."



— STEVE DOZIER/Miami Herald Staff

Lock Haven's Tim Gargan Celebrates
... Bald Eagles are Division II soccer champs

Soccer Team Reigns as National Champs

By RICK BAKER

Led by an outstanding defense, which didn't allow a single goal in the final two games, the Lock Haven State College soccer team won the NCAA Division II national championship last week in Miami, Florida.

The Bald Eagles capped off an impressive 21-0 season by nipping Chico State in the semi-finals and Florida International University in the title game, both by 1-0 scores. Tom Kretson's goal in the second overtime was the game winner against FIU.

Eagle Coach Mike Parker had nothing but praise for his defense after they had posted their eighth and ninth shutouts of the season.

"Again I felt it was a case of the back four and the goalkeeper keeping us in the game. Goalie Mike Bobby didn't make a single mistake the whole tournament. He was always at the right place at the right time."

In Friday's game against Chico State of California, Neil Johnson scored the only goal of the game midway through the first half. Co-captain Billy Hibbs brought the ball the right side on a fine run, and crossed it to middle. From about six yards out Johnson hit the header that gave Lock Haven a slim 1-0 lead.

Chico State put the pressure on throughout the second half said Parker, but

the Eagle defense played well and protected the lead. Lock Haven was outshot by Chico State 19-10, but Johnson hit the only one that really counted, the one that moved the Bald Eagles into the finals.

Saturday's championship game with FIU was a real nail-bitter for Lock Haven.

FIU came out strong and played really well in the early going. "FIU really took it to us in the first half. It looked for a while as though they were really going to blow us out of there," said Parker.

FIU had several chances to score midway through the first half but came up empty, as the Lock Haven defense toughened. "The side really hung in there and we

weathered the storm. You could almost sense that they (FIU) had given us their best shot and came away empty-handed," said Parker.

Lock Haven started playing more aggressively and by the middle of the second half it was the Bald Eagles who were making things happen. Trevor Adair and John Appezato had chances to end the game in regulation but they just missed said Parker.

Neither team scored during regulation or the first overtime period. Then just 48 seconds into the second overtime Kretsch took a pass from Johnson, beat the FIU goalie to the ball, and tapped in the shot which gave Lock Haven its third national title in four years. They won

back-to-back titles in 1977 and 1978 in Division III.

"The whole squad played well, but Billy Hibbs probably played his two first games ever in a Lock Haven shirt. It's my opinion he was the best player on the field in both games and it was a fantastic way for a player like that to go out after giving his

heart and soul for four years to the team," said Parker.

Bobby Gould, Mike Corney and Karl Burkhardt also played very well in the two-day tournament said Parker.

"To me it was one of the most emotional and best victories in the five years I've been head," he said.

Bald Eagles NCAA Champs

MIAMI, Fla. — Lock Haven State College's soccer team closed out a sensational season here Saturday afternoon by winning the NCAA Division II Soccer Championship.

The Bald Eagles defeated host Florida International University, 1-0, on freshman Tom Kretsch's goal just 48 seconds into the second 15-minute sudden death overtime period.

Coach Mike Parker's

Eagles, who finished with an outstanding 21-0 record, are expected back in Lock Haven between 6:30 and 7 o'clock Tuesday evening.

Lock Haven is the first school ever to go from Division III and win a Division II soccer crown. The Bald Eagles were the Division III national champs in both 1977 and 1978.

In the past three years they have won 55 and lost only six.



PROUD EAGLES — Neil Johnson (left) and Trevor Adair, from Hull, England and Belfast, Ireland, respectively, were the Bald Eagles' top two scorers.