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# Girls TAPPS state soccer: Ursuline, Grapevine Faith, Dallas Covenant claim title wins

Grapevine Faith secures its fifth consecutive state championship, while Ursuline comes out on top in an all-Dallas-area Division I final.



Lily Marquez of the Ursuline girls soccer team takes a team selfie with the TAPPS trophy after their game against John Paul II Plano in the Girls Division I Soccer Finals of TAPPS Friday March 3, 2023. (Neil Carroll / special contributor)



By Colby Gordon

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## DIVISION I

ROUND ROCK — [Ursuline](#) coach Darrin Hedges thought a breakthrough was coming for his team in the second half Friday, and he couldn't have been more right.

The Bears reeled off four unanswered goals in the second half to rout John Paul II 5-1 in an all-Dallas-area [TAPPS Division I girls state title game](#) at Round Rock Athletic Complex.

"I thought we were playing some very good soccer in the first half and creating some good opportunities against the wind," Hedges said, "and I thought if we kept doing what we were doing, we'd capitalize in the second half and get a couple more."

Ursuline received a fortunate bounce with an own goal from John Paul II two minutes into the second half, then the floodgates opened.

Audrey Bryant scored on a beautiful turn-and-hit from 20 yards in the 50th minute, Madeline Tiffany had a brilliant long-distance shot in the 65th minute and Bryant found the net again less than a minute later to round out the scoring.

The result could have been even more lopsided, as the Bears hit the post and had several more opportunities in the final 40 minutes, when they spent the majority of the time in the Cardinals' half of the field.

"This means everything," said Tiffany, one of nine seniors on the team. "Especially this year with a tough season. But we came through, played for each other — and we deserve this. In the second half, I think we all realized this was the last half we'd play together, and that's why [we played so well]."

Madison Riley's goal in the 25th minute put Ursuline ahead 1-0, then the Cardinals tied the game on Erin Dull's header off a corner kick two minutes before the break.

But the Bears dominated possession and the run of play from kickoff in the second half, with Bryant's goals coming from nearly the identical spot.

"I'm right-footed, but I really like playing the left side and cutting in and taking the shot towards the back post," she said. "It's amazing — it's such a good feeling to win this to do it for our seniors."

Bryant, Riley, Isabella Zanoni and Quetzabel Garza earned spots on the all-tournament team for Ursuline, with Dull, Mallory Murphy, Gabriella Tucci and Lillian Penrod doing the same for John Paul II.

“We came out strong in the second half and didn’t let up,” Bryant said. “It all comes down to who wants it more — and we definitely wanted it more.”

## DIVISION II

Grapevine Faith Christian is now more than a dynasty in TAPPS girls soccer.

The Lions won their fifth straight state title Friday, claiming the [TAPPS Division II championship](#) with a 2-1 win over Katy St. John Paul XXIII at Round Rock Athletic Complex.

“We made program history as no one has ever won five in a row,” Faith Christian coach Cat Meyer said. “It means a lot and means a lot to our players. They accepted the challenge back in August and said, ‘We want to do this.’ The seniors did a great job leading, our underclassmen stepped up and we took care of business.”

Taylor Ayres and Ella Claire Rosenthal scored for Faith Christian, which took a 2-0 lead and generally controlled the game’s possession and run of play.

Ayres drilled a free kick from 25 yards in the 13th minute, while Rosenthal finished a loose ball off a cross in the 54th.

“I hit one on the backside [Thursday] in the semifinals, so I just tried to do it again,” Ayres said. “For me it was just envisioning it going to the place I wanted it to. There were a lot of challenges to this season, but I’m really proud of the whole team for coming out on top.”

Andrea Morales-Rodriguez scored for St. John Paul XXIII in the 65th minute with a clinical strike from near the top of the box, but Faith Christian closed out the game without allowing any more threats.

“Our main thing coming in was we wanted to play to feet,” Meyer said. “There’s so much space here, we wanted to use our middle to move the ball up the field.”

Ayres, Lucy Donovan, Taylor Sal and Evan O’Steen earned spots on the all-tournament team for the Lions.

## DIVISION III

It’s hard to be more dominating in a state final than Dallas Covenant was Friday.

The Knights cruised to the [TAPPS Division III championship](#) with a 4-1 win over Schertz John Paul II at Round Rock Athletic Complex in the third straight meeting between the two for the state title.

Covenant won in 2021 and lost last year’s matchup, but the Knights left little doubt this time around as Kaitlin Swann scored twice and both Naomi Daniels and Presley Pinkston had goals.

“It’s amazing to do this senior year and finish it off” Swann said. “I’m just so proud of our team as we all put in so much work this season.”

Daniels put Covenant ahead for good in the 22nd minute when she volleyed a corner kick into the back of the net.

“It was a great cross by [Pinkston] and it was kind of just instinct to hit it in the air, and it went in,” Daniels said. “That’s a huge rush of adrenaline and I feel like that got our momentum started.”

Pinkston scored on a breakaway in the 55th minute, then Swann ran to a ball in the box and produced a nice finish to push the Knights lead to 3-0.

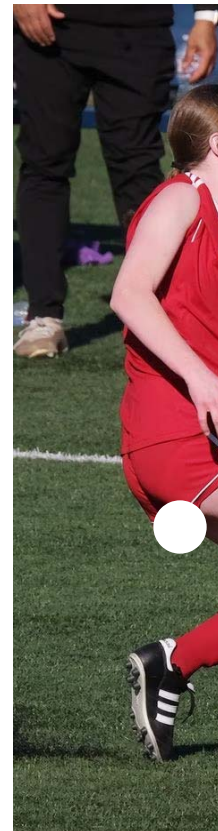
“Breakaways are all about finishing,” Swann said. “But I couldn’t have done it without the great pass and the support from all my teammates.”

Madeline Seebeck had John Paul’s goal in the 66th minute, but Swann answered with her second goal less than a minute later on a shot from more than 20 yards to reach the game’s final tally.

Amiya Brown and Chloe Fox joined Daniels and Swann on the all-tournament team for the Knights.

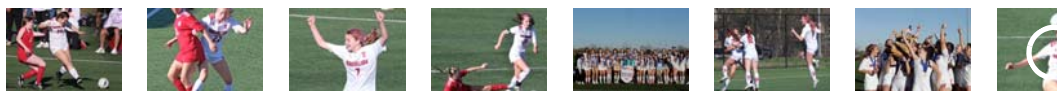
“We had a bit of a slow start to the year, but we finished strong this season and that’s all that matters,” Swann said.

**Photos: Ursuline uses a big second half to claim TAPPS Div. I girls soccer title**



[1/18] Ursuline #12 Madeline Tiffany goes up against #7 Lillian Penrod of John Paul II Plano in the Girls Division I Soccer Finals of TAPPS Friday March 3, 2023. (Nell Carroll / special contributor)

[2/18] Ursuline #25 Reagan Soccer Finals of TAPPS Fric



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