
Girls Lacrosse

UA eases past Thomas, again advances to state semifinal

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By Adam Cairns/ThisWeek

Upper Arlington's Lindsay Godard and Thomas Worthington's Stephanie Littell reach for a loose ball during the Division I regional final match at Dublin Jerome on May 21. UA won 19-12.

[Slideshow: See more photos of the game](#)

Erin Junk had no idea she was going to play such an important role in the Upper Arlington High School girls lacrosse team's 19-12 win over Thomas Worthington on Wednesday in a Division I regional final. But Junk, an attacker, scored a career-high six goals - including two in the final two minutes of the first half - as the Golden Bears advanced to a state semifinal for the seventh time in eight years.

"I'm just happy and grateful," she said. "Our whole team wanted to have a great season not only for the seniors but also for (first-year coach Lynda McCandlish). It feels great to relive part of what we did last year, but this year we're hoping to go all the way."

UA will play Hudson or Shaker Heights Hathaway Brown in a semifinal May 30 in Medina. The Bears beat Hathaway Brown 17-4 in a state semifinal last year before losing to Cincinnati Sycamore 9-7 in the final.

UA, which improved to 19-2 overall, had to get past a determined Thomas. The Cardinals, who finished 13-7, pulled within 9-6 with two minutes left in the first half. In the final two minutes, Junk scored two goals and Kelly Mason scored in the last 30 seconds to push the lead up to 12-6.

"A lot of different people stepped up but Erin had a great game," McCandlish said. "After Thomas closed in, we just came out hard and wanted to score some goals."

"Upper Arlington gained a lot of momentum with those three goals," Thomas coach Ally McCarthy said. "UA does a great job of pressuring in the midfield and we had to adjust to that a little bit."

Thomas had a hard time coming back. The Cardinals, who lost to UA 7-6 last year in a regional final, trailed by as much as 18-9.

Kelly Mason had four goals and Lindsay Godard and Avery Toothman had three UA. For Thomas, Tara Benninger scored three goals and Megan Strasser and Hannah Tikson had two.

"We tried our best," Strasser said. "The lapse before halftime slowed us down. We tried to come out strong in the second half but that got to us today."

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