

Airline wraps up District 1-I soccer title

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With the outright District 1-I soccer title already assured, there was no real pressure on the Airline Vikings in the regular-season finale against Parkway Monday night.

The Vikings still came out and put an exclamation point on the regular season with a 3-0 victory at Tinsley Park.

Airline finished district play at 11-1 and will head into the playoffs 25-2 overall. Captain Shreve and Magnet finished tied for second at 9-3.

Will Coyer, Scott Bowers and Matt Hanisee scored one goal each for Airline. Chris Galvin had two assists and Coyer had one.

"It's a goal we've worked for the past three years since I've been here, just trying to build the program, because we knew we were going to have a very strong senior year," Bowers said of the district title. "It feels good to accomplish what we set in front of us at the beginning of the season."

While the Vikings have had no trouble scoring goals this season, they've also had plenty of success preventing them.

"We've had a really strong defense, and we've had one big guy trying to win the headers out of the midfield every time," senior Matt Henry said. "And our forwards have produced goals pretty much every game."

Bowers said the addition of Abdullah Rayyan, an exchange student from Spain, has also been a key.

"He's a very good defender," Bowers said. "He's helped us out a lot."

While happy to win the district title, the ultimate goal is still ahead.

"We're looking to go to state," Henry said. "We want to go for the big game."

Elsewhere Monday, Bossier downed Benton 3-1 in a non-district regular-season finale.

Bryce Colotta, Hunter Courtney and Luis Martinez scored one goal apiece. Aaron Rios had two assists, and Ellie Saloma had one.

Airline, Benton and Bossier are all assured of playoff berths. Parkway will likely be a wild-card team.

Pairings will be announced today.