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LINDENWOD

Top-seeded Lady Lions win opener at nationals

MIAMI--Inge Heiremanes scored a goal and added three assists to lead top-seeded Lindenwood University to a 4-1 win over host St. Thomas University (Fla.) in the first match of the 17th annual NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship on Thursday.

The Lady Lions, now 21-0, got off to a quick start by scoring two goals in the first 20 minutes. Heiremanes opened the scoring at 18:13 with a goal from close range. Just over a minute later, Heiremanes delivered a pass to Karen Dullum, who lofted a 20-yard shot to the back post over the goalkeeper's head and into the net. Lindenwood, the NAIA Region V champions, led 3-0 at halftime thanks to Becky Brown finishing off a cross served by Fabienne Comte, and assisted by Heiremanes in the 37th minute.

Nadia Gaeggeler staked the Lady Lions to a 4-0 advantage in the first minute of the second half on a 12-yard strike from Heiremanes.

St. Thomas, which finishes its season at 8-12-1, had just two shots on the day. The host Bobcats were eliminated with the loss.

Lindenwood advances to Saturday's quarterfinal match at 9 a.m. against the winner of Friday's first-round match between 8th-seeded University of Mobile (Ala.) and 9th-seeded College of St. Mary (Neb.)

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