

Ben Franklin Boys Soccer Team Gets Payback in State Quarterfinals

[BY PAUL BORON](#) Feb. 13, 2024

It won't erase Ben Franklin's pain of losing to St. Thomas More in last year's Division Two Final. But in their quest to return to the state title game this year, beating the Cougars along the way certainly was sweet for the Falcons.

"It's funny that was on all of our minds," Falcons' Head Coach Joseph Roberts said. "They weren't concerned about a game after this. Tonight was about trying to get last year's taste out of their mouth."

Senior Midfielder Jacob Chapital's second half header was the match's lone goal, coming off a Carson Colombo corner kick. It was the winner that sent Ben Franklin onto the semifinals and gave the Falcons some revenge.

"To win today meant the world to all of our boys," Chapital said. "All of our boys knew our seniors last year and how much that meant, and we came to this game prepared to give our all."

Neither team created much in the first 20 minutes of the match, with the Falcons holding a slight possession edge. The game opened up when the Cougars started pushing forward. But it was the Falcons that would have the two best opportunities of the half.

It was scoreless in the 38th minute when Jameson Young had a free kick from just inside of midfield. He attempted a long shot and forced Cougars keeper William Sonnier to make a sprawling right handed save.

A minute later from nearly the same spot, Young this time decided to drop a ball into the penalty box that Carl Beabout headed into the side netting.

In the second half, St. Thomas More came out looking even more aggressive but never really threatened Falcons' keeper Jacob Russell.

Again, the Falcons created their chances off of set pieces.

In the 58th minute, on their first corner kick of the game, Ben Franklin's Carson Colombo delivered a perfect ball to the six yard box and Jacob Chapital buried a header into the back of the net to give the Falcons a 1-0 lead. It was Chapital's 9th goal of the year.

"Carson is a master class on those balls," said Chapital. "I just saw it in the air. I was like I'm going to get this one. Let's put our team ahead."

The Falcons nearly added a second goal in the run of play, but Sonnier robbed Sammy Perez from point blank range in the 71st minute. Chapital's goal would be enough for the Falcons.

Ben Franklin will now host number 10 seed Riverdale Friday or Saturday. The loss ends the Cougars' quest for a third straight championship.

“I’m so proud of this team, “ said Cougars’ coach John Plumber. “This year we faced so much adversity and they just kept fighting. They made me proud.”