

By EARL WATT

• Daily Leader

Lori Navarro got what she wanted at the end of the quarterfinal match-up with Winfield Tuesday at the Redskin Soccer Complex — an ice-cold drenching.

It was a clear indication that this win meant something more than the 15 other wins this season.

This one was for a trip to the Final Four, a place the Redskins have been six of the past seven seasons.

Despite playing shorthanded most of the night after Eduardo Campos received a red card with 12 minutes to play in the first half, the Redskins knocked off Winfield 3-0 to advance to a 5 p.m. Friday match-up with St. Thomas Aquinas at Bonner Springs.

“I’ve been motivating my team all week,” Navarro said. “There’s been adversity and a lot of talk. I told them, ‘No matter what happens, step up today.’ Everybody stepped up. We played with 10, but it didn’t seem like it.”



It sure didn’t.

Cesar Jurado scored Liberal’s first goal after losing Campos on a shorthanded break-away. It turned out to be enough, but Hector Mata and Alfredo Garcia added second half goals to give the Redskins the 3-0 cushion.

“We played our game and did our best,” Jurado said. “We knew about last year. We just had confidence.”

Liberal (16-1-1) has participated in soccer for 11 years and has qualified for the Final Four six times, finishing as state runners-up twice.

“I think we have a chance,” Navarro said. “We’ll go give it all we have. We have to believe we can win and take it home on Friday.”

After last year’s quarterfinal loss that ended Liberal’s streak at five consecutive trips to the Final Four, Navarro said she last year to challenge her team.

“I told them I didn’t want any tears after this game,” she said. I wanted celebrating.”

And that led to her ice-cold shower.

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“It felt awesome,” she said. “This is not just a win, it sends you to the Final Four. We’re one of the four best teams out there, and I’d do it again.”