

CBC routs Hickman

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SUBURBAN JOURNALS



CBC's Sean Kuster (right) shows three fingers to the Cadets' bench after Matt Hutchison (left) scored his third goal of the game against Hickman on Saturday.
(Paul Kopsky/STLtoday Prep Sports)

Christian Brothers College wasted little time punching its ticket to Saturday's Class 3 championship game.

Playing in their first semifinals since 2005 the Cadets (25-4-3) scored three goals in the first 12 minutes on their way to a 6-2 pounding of Columbia-Hickman (14-9-2) Friday night at the Anheuser-Busch Center.

Senior forward Matt Hutchison was the man

of the match as he tallied three goals including the first two of the opening half.

Sophomore forward Justin Bilyeu made it 3-0 when he stole a pass deep in Kewpie territory and turned it into a goal.

Senior forward Sean Kuster pushed the lead to 4-0 when he tallied his team-high 17th goal midway through the first half.

For all the brilliance the Cadets showed early, Coach Terry Michler said they also had stretches where they did not play at a high level.

"It was the good, the bad and the ugly all in one game," Michler said. "We had a great start."

Hickman got on the board when senior George Plankorus buried a free kick from about 20 yards out near the two minute mark. The Cadets' Ryan Droege scored his first goal of the season to put CBC up 5-1 at the half but Michler didn't see the same kind of execution after they gave up the goal.

"We didn't get back into our rhythm," Michler said.

The Cadets played keep away most of the game, forcing Hickman to chase the ball across the artificial turf. With the Kewpies not challenging every ball, Michler left his starters on the field for a significant chunk of the second half.

"They conserved a lot of energy," he said of his team's possession style. "We kept it moving."

Saturday's championship game is slated to kick off at 6 p.m. CBC will be playing for its seventh state championship, a mark that is currently only held by rival Vianney. The Cadets will play the winner of Friday's other semifinal, St. Louis University High or Kansas City's Park Hill.