

## Bond lifts CBC to title

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SUBURBAN JOURNALS



CBC players celebrate following their 1-0 win over SLUH in the Class 3 championship game Saturday at the A-B Center.

*(Paul Kopsky/STLtoday Prep Sports)*

Jake Bond trotted across the main field at the Anheuser-Busch Center, the ultimate prize in his hands and a pink band around his wrist.

Bond, a junior forward for Christian Brothers College, had a firm grasp on the Class 3 state championship trophy. It was Bond who netted the goal that gave the Cadets, 26-4-3, a 1-0 win Saturday night over rival St. Louis University High, 21-7-1.

It's the seventh state title for CBC, tying Vianney for the most in state history.

Bond took a nice pass from senior midfielder Vic Lombardo deep on the left side of the SLUH box and knocked it in near post.

"I was in the right place at the right time and buried it," Bond said.

Scoring the game-winner in the state championship game is a high point for Bond who experienced an emotional season. The entire Cadet team wore pink arm bands to honor Bond's mother (Mary Ann) who passed away before the season began. Bond said he felt she was with him.

"I felt she was with me the whole time," he said as tears welled in his eyes.

Though it only scored one goal, CBC dominated the match, never letting SLUH do much of anything.

"We got outplayed tonight," SLUH Coach Charlie Martel said. "They were stronger, they were faster. There is no doubt in my mind they are the best team in the state of Missouri."

SLUH, which beat the Cadets in both of their previous matchups, was overmatched. The Junior Billikens were at the mercy of CBC's possession game. The Cadets made them chase the ball all night, never allowing SLUH to be particularly dangerous.

"I thought we could take some things away and we did," CBC Coach Terry Michler said with a smile.

Michler, who has led the Cadets to six of their seven championships, said this group impressed him with how it executed in the biggest game of the year with all the pressure on its shoulders and more than 4,000 sets of eyes watching.

"The kids were perfect," Michler said. "They could not have played better. I told them to look around. Most of you will never play in front of this many people again in your lives. Go out and enjoy it."

Michler said the number six didn't mean much to him.

"I've won six and lost six times," he said with a hearty laugh. "I had to get back to .500."

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