**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE CARDINAL NEWMAN WOMEN’S VARSITY SOCCER TEAM, COACHES, AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR A STELLAR SEASON AND FOR WINNING THE 2017 SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CLASS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that the Cardinal Newman women’s varsity soccer team of Richland County took top honors at the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) state competition held in Charleston on Saturday, May 13, 2017; and

Whereas, to the delight of their faithful fans, the Cardinal Newman Lady Cardinals defeated the competitive Porter‑Gaud Lady Cyclones in a dramatic, come‑from‑behind 2‑1 victory in overtime to claim the state title. Cardinal Newman would be the only team in SCISA play to score against the Cyclones in the 2017 season; and

Whereas, the Lady Cyclones took the lead, firing off seven shots to Cardinal Newman’s one before Porter‑Gaud scored in the first twenty‑eight minutes of play, giving Porter‑Gaud a 1‑0 lead; and

Whereas, the Cardinals’ keeper, sophomore Allie Coates, collected shots from the Lady Cyclones while her teammates began to find their rhythm in the game, but both teams faced an unexpected challenger when the spring rains descended on the pitch; and

Whereas, in the second half, each team fired off two unsuccessful shots, but after more than fifty minutes of play, Cardinals’ freshman Caitlin Murphy, the SCISA 3A Player of the Year, got into position in the Porter‑Gaud box to drop a perfect cross to teammate Ayden Boatwright who set the match to a 1‑1 tie; and

Whereas, Porter‑Gaud earned the first of their three yellow cards in the game when Cardinal defender and senior captain Chloe Cobb collided with one of their players sixty‑five minutes into the second half, forcing Cobb out of the game briefly. Hannah Hartel, an eighth‑grader, stepped in for her and became the game changer; and

Whereas, Cardinal Newman’s Ayden Boatwright collected the ball at midfield and dropped a pass to her left to Hannah Hartel on the wing who charged to the box and placed a perfect left‑footer in the right corner for the go‑ahead goal; and

Whereas, Allie Coates finished the championship game with twelve saves, ably defending against Porter‑Gaud for the final 18:30, and the team won its second consecutive state trophy. The Cardinals finished with an impressive 14‑4 season and 7‑0 region record; and

Whereas, against the toughest offense of the season, freshman Hailey Laubacker, seniors Sierra Bacon and Chloe Cobb, and junior Ashley Maddock presented a formidable backline. Cardinal Newman’s junior Regan Fosmire controlled the midfield with her most dominate defensive performance to date; and

Whereas, senior captains Baylee Cline and McKenna Trogdon are part of a senior class that have contributed to both state championships, three straight finals appearances, and four straight region championships; and

Whereas, along with his skilled coaching staff, Head Coach Will Plexico, *High School Sports Report* SCISA Coach of the Year, maximized his own experience and passion in a sport that exacts agility, speed, and stamina to hone a championship‑caliber team and teach these athletes lessons that will prove invaluable through life both on and off the pitch; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives value the pride and recognition that these Cardinal Newman soccer players have brought to their school and their community and look to hear of their continued achievements in the years to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the Cardinal Newman women’s varsity soccer team, coaches, and school officials for a stellar season and for winning the 2017 South Carolina Independent School Association Class 3A State Championship title.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Principal Jacqualine Kasprowski and Coach Will Plexico.

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