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Arcata tops Eureka, takes H-DNC

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The Arcata High girls soccer team captured the Humboldt-Del Norte Conference crown and got revenge on Eureka with a 1-0 win over the Loggers in Arcata on Friday.

The Tigers (11-1 in the H-DNC, 12-3 overall) had to wait until two minutes remained in the game to cheer, however, as both teams came out on the defensive. After Arcata missed several opportunities, Tigers midfielder Karen Pontoni made the game-winning strike.

Pontoni received a through pass from the midfield and out-ran Eureka's defenders for a breakaway goal that won the game and ensured the conference title.

"In the first half both teams were playing on the defensive trying to feel each other out," Arcata head coach Ahmed Solliman said. "Finally we were able to get into a groove in the second half."

Eureka (8-1-3, 8-5-4), which defeated Arcata 4-1 in late September, needed a win on Friday to claim a share of the conference title and a chance to host a first-round game in the North Coast Section tournament.

"We went into this game to win," Solliman said. "We weren't going to settle for a tie. This gives us a boost for sections as far as getting a better seed. The girls played really, really hard and they deserved to win."