

Frederica Academy soccer teams shut out Robert Toombs



Sebastian Emanuel/The Brunswick News

Frederica's Mary Ford Fitzjurls waits to take a corner kick in the 9-0 win over Robert Toombs.

By **SEBASTIAN EMANUEL**
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The Frederica Academy girls soccer team started Tuesday off with a dominating 9-0 win over the Crusaders of Robert Toombs.

Having played the night before in Dublin against Trinity Christian, the Knights (4-2-1, 3-1) came out with intentions of putting the game away early to give players opportunities to see the field.

After Robert Toombs started the first few minutes with the ball and looked to be a tough challenge for Frederica,

the flood gates opened for the Knights in the 37th minute.

Co-captain Josephine Brock received a through ball from Katie Eckert for the first goal of the night.

Frederica kept the pressure after stealing the ball on the ensuing kickoff and making its way down the field, with co-captain Ellie Runyan hitting the crossbar from a shot inside the box.

The Knights captured their second goal minutes later when Mary Ford Fitzjurls took a shot from outside the box. What seemed like an easy ball for Robert Toombs'

goalkeeper, the ball popped off her gloves and into the back of the net.

As the Knights kept the pressure on the backline of the Crusaders by attacking every goal kick, the team forced corners and shots on goal.

In the 26th minute, Frederica grabbed its third goal of the game when Scout Brummett received a low-driven pass across the box by Fitzjurls.

After dishing out the game's first assist, Eckert earned herself a goal by attacking the goal kick because of the high line by the Crusaders' defenders. Taking it with ease,

Eckert buried her shot for the teams' fourth goal.

"Unfortunately for Robert Toombs they struggled to play out of the back and we took advantage of it," said Frederica girls head coach Gabe Gabriel. "I want complete control. If I can have complete control and not have to worry about anything in our half then we will do that, whether it's without the ball or with the ball possession."

Twenty seconds later Frederica made its way down the field with Runyan controlling

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FLAME RETARDANT



Derrick Davis/The Brunswick News

Coastal Georgia's Reagan Thomas delivers a pitch during Game 3 of a series against Southeastern on Wednesday.

Mariners put Fire out of share of first in SUN Conference

By **DERRICK DAVIS**
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Just four batters into the decisive game in a series between the top 2 teams in the SUN Conference, the Mariners found themselves in an uphill battle Wednesday.

Coastal Georgia ace Hayley Dickerson had already allowed a pair of runs, and

Southeastern had its own ace, Claire Sekinger, looking to extend her streak of 35 scoreless innings in the bottom half of the frame.

But in a season full of triumphs, the Mariners scored their biggest yet, battling back to extinguish the Fire 8-4.

"It was definitely the biggest win of the season so far," said CCGA head coach Mike Minick. "We're 27-3, but if we lose

today, we're tied for second. There's another team that's 9-3, (Southeastern) is 9-3, now we're 10-2.

"There's a long way to go, and it's going to be a tough battle, but I'm so proud of the way they responded today."

With Dickerson out of sorts, No. 10 Coastal

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Braves' World Series title is big target for NL East rivals

By **CHARLES ODUM**
Associated Press

ATLANTA — The World Series championship signs are everywhere at the Atlanta Braves' spring training home.

A championship flag flies in CoolToday Park's left field in Venice, Florida. There are other reminders on the video board, atop the Braves' dugout, outside the stadium and on prominent display in the clubhouse.

That's just fine with

left-hander Kyle Muller.

"Oh yeah!" Muller said. "When you accomplish something like that, you want that up there. ... Being able to close it out last year, you want that anywhere."

Muller paused and then added, "Anywhere and everywhere!"

The Braves followed their fourth consecutive NL East title with their first World Series championship since 1995, beating Houston in six games.

The core of the team returns, with a very notable exception. The Braves failed to re-sign first baseman Freddie Freeman when they balked at giving the 2020 NL MVP and popular team leader the sixth year that he instead received when he signed with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Atlanta tried to fill the void by trading four top prospects to Oakland for Matt Olson, who at 28 is four years younger than Freeman. One day later, the team announced a

\$168 million, eight-year deal that keeps Olson in Atlanta at least through 2029. It is the largest contract in Braves history.

Soon after losing Freeman, the Braves signed former Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen to a one-year deal.

The Braves know they play in a tough division, with the Mets and Phillies making big offseason additions.

Reliever Tyler Matzek says

Please see **ATL, 2B**



Curtis Compton/AP

Atlanta Braves outfielder Eddie Rosario loosens up during spring training in North Port, Fla., on March 17.