

DES MOINES – The Xavier Saints will be facing an incredibly talented soccer player from Spain on Friday when they meet Iowa Falls-Alden in the semifinals of the Class 2A state tournament in Des Moines.

Marcos Villa has scored 56 goals for Iowa Falls-Alden in 20 games this season and tied a national record when he scored a hat trick in nine straight games.

Iowa Falls-Alden features another scoring machine with Logan Steelman, who's produced 32 goals for the Cadets this year.

Xavier topped the Marion Indians, 5-1, in the opening round of the state tournament at the Cownie Soccer Complex Thursday afternoon. Thomas Bean and Will Hanigan scored for the Saints in the first half to give them a 2-1 lead at intermission, then Shane Scott, Luke Duball and Brian Lang produced goals in the second half.

Jaffer Murphy scored a goal for Marion, which was making its first trip to the state tournament in school history and finished with an 11-5 record.

Xavier (13-4) will face Iowa Falls-Alden (20-0) at 2:30 Friday afternoon. Iowa Falls-Alden defeated Dubuque Wahlert, 2-1, in the first round Thursday.

Norwalk (16-4) plays Perry (16-4) in the other Class 2A semifinal Friday. The championship match is scheduled for Saturday at 2:30.