

## Saints claim 8th straight state title

Written by Jim Ecker

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DES MOINES - Kayla Armstrong came to the Xavier bench during the second half of the Class 2A state soccer tournament Saturday with blood gushing out of her right nostril, thanks to a collision with the Sioux City East goal keeper.

There was blood all over her right hand and jersey as a trainer cleaned her off and tried to stop the bleeding.

Armstrong, true to her nature, was smiling and joking with teammates.

Despite all that blood, she had just scored her fourth goal of the game and the top-ranked Saints were well on their way to their eighth state title in a row, extending their own record for most consecutive IGHS AU crowns in any sport.

The final score this time was Xavier 5, Sioux City East 0 at the Cownie Sports Complex.

"I got into a little tussle with the keeper," Armstrong said mischievously with a smile. "She may have thrown an elbow or two down there."

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