

# PhilaFH GAME OF THE WEEK: Second “Half of Heart” Propels Shanahan Over Downingtown East in Overtime

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The PhilaFH GAME OF THE WEEK showcased ChesMont rivals Bishop Shanahan and Downingtown East and boy was it a *show!* Despite East’s hot first half resulting in a 2-0 lead, Shanahan returned after the break with passion, playing a heartfelt second half and winning 3-2 in overtime.

“The second half was a half of heart,” said Shanahan’s Madison Parke. “We had to pull out the character that we always have and we knew that. We’re all playing for each other; we’re not playing individually. We needed a team effort so that’s what we did.”

The night game, played at Downingtown West, was a tale of two halves. D’East set the tempo from the first whistle and played with high-intensity orchestrated by midfielder Paige Wolfe and two goals by Kya Effinger, both field goals. Downingtown East’s ability to redefend and intercept Shanahan’s passes was notable; the Cougars were *on*. Ryan Donnelly, Lauren Carey and goalkeeper Ava Irwin were also standouts in shutting down Shanahan in the first 30 minutes. But then it all changed.

“At halftime, we just talked about we’re the better team, you know — it’s your pep talk kind of stuff,” said Shanahan Head Coach Nancy Roselli. “And I told them: You’re playing like you’re two down and you can’t make this up, but you can. You can get two goals.”

A come-from-behind win wasn't unfathomable for the Eagles. They did it earlier this season and even found the heart and hustle to pull out two overtime wins.

"We play a tough schedule. We play a lot of tough teams and we just had to believe we could pull this out," Roselli added.

In the second half, Shanahan was on center stage. The Eagles converted on two played-out corners, the first by Katie Keating at the 10-minute mark on an intense scramble in front of the cage. Five minutes later, Lauren Bradley fed Gabby O'Brien for the equalizing goal— an off-paced shot that snuck by two D'East defenders and the keeper.

"As soon as that ball crossed the line, I knew we were back in the game," said O'Brien.

Both teams worked for the game-winner in regulation time without success. Shanahan shone on all lines. Angelina Luongo was the catalyst for much of the Eagles' offensive push, constantly moving inside the circle keeping D'East's talented defenders on their toes. Bradley and Bella D'Alessandro anchored Shanahan's midfield while Keating and Claire Hoffman made critical plays in the backfield.

Overtime was a show in itself. It wasn't until under a minute that Shanahan really stole the show when Bradley notched the game-winner, assisted by D'Alessandro at 0:42.

"We were pretty far into overtime and I know I was starting to drag; overtime is always the hardest part of the game, definitely mentally," commented Bradley. "But Angelina had that ball and the goalkeeper was down on the ground and I had the open goal. It was a post player's dream when I tipped it in. It was just relief. I started crying as soon as it went in."

The win improved Shanahan's record to 14-2 overall and 7-2 in league play.

Downingtown East dropped to 7-8-1 overall and 5-4-1 in the ChesMont League. Despite the loss, the game shone light on what to do next.

"I think this game showed us that we have the power to rise up and fight against any team," said D'East's Paige Wolfe. "We just have to keep our momentum through the entire game and play with the energy we start out with. "

"We got a little too comfortable the second half and starting doing the basics not in the correct way, and that turned into mistakes which also turned into their successes," said Head Coach Sarah Keer. "We came out in the first half and we were very, very intense and that's something we've been working on all season. But there was that span of like 12 minutes where the wheels came off and they (Shanahan) just capitalized on our mistakes. Moving forward we'll look to fill those gaps and keep that intensity the entire game."

Shanahan will wrap up regular season play next week with two important league games. Standing at #2 in District One AA power rankings, the Eagles are focused on the here and now — one game at a time. "I knew it was going to be an intense game back and forth. The ChesMont League is really tight this year; there's a lot of really close games," said Coach Roselli.

"We're taking it one game at a time," added Gabby O'Brien. "We've learned to do that, as early as last week we took a loss that taught us that. We just need to keep believing in ourselves and playing the way we can and we'll get where we want to be."

#### **BOX SCORE:**

**Bishop Shanahan 3, Downingtown East 2 (OT)**

halftime: Downingtown East 2, Shanahan 0

at Downingtown West (D'East home game)  
ChesMont league game  
SHANAHAN:  
Goals:  
Katie Keating (10:37)  
Gabby O'Brien assist Lauren Bradley (5:44)  
Lauren Bradley assist Bella D'Allessandro (:42)  
GK Saves:  
Emma Leppert: 5-4-9  
SOG:  
Penalty Corners: 2-6-8  
Record: 14-2 overall, 8-2 in the Chesmont  
DOWNINGTOWN EAST:  
Goals:  
Kya Effinger (25:30)  
Kya Effinger (9:12)  
GK Saves:  
Ava Irwin – 3-9-2OT-14  
SOG: 3-1-4  
Penalty Corners: 4-1-5  
Record:  
7-8-1 overall, 5-4-1 ChesMont National

**PHOTO ALBUM: Photos by Gene Samit, TSS Photography. [Click here](#) to view the PhilaFH GAME OF THE WEEK Facebook photo album.**

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