

Duquette's aim is true when it matters

By **Thomas Baldwin** - Special to the News

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Julia Duquette took a game over, and it could not have come at a more paramount juncture.

She did it with a season -- and a championship -- hanging in the balance.



Julia Duquette of Msgr. Martin (behind net) reacts to scoring in Friday's game against West Seneca.

John Hickey /Buffalo News

The junior defenseman scored two goals in the third period just under four minutes apart to lead the Monsignor Martin girls hockey team to a thrilling 2-1 victory over West Seneca to win the second-ever Western New York Girls Hockey Federation Championship on Friday night at the Northtown Center in Amherst.

"It is great," said Duquette. "Everyone saw the ice [Friday], and everyone contributed to the win. It does feel great."

Msgr. Martin -- the top seed in the tournament and a club consisting of girls from eight different Catholic schools in Western New York -- finished at 18-1-1. Second-seeded West Seneca finished with an 18-3-0 record.

Technically, Msgr. Martin dominated the game, outshooting West Seneca, 41-18. But West Seneca goaltender Sydney Glynn was tremendous, keeping her club in the game all evening.

In fact, West Seneca clung to a 1-0 lead midway through the third period before Duquette stormed to the forefront in stylish and dramatic fashion.

She tied the game, 1-1, with 7:41 to go when she picked up a loose puck at the West Seneca blue line, skated in and beat Glynn from close range.

"I gave a toe drag, kind of deked her and found a hole in the goalie," Duquette said of the equalizer.

Just under four minutes later, she scored a highlight reel goal when she sped in the West Seneca zone, shook off three defenders and coolly flicked a shot over Glynn's glove.

"I just basically went end to end, I got past both defensemen, and shot it over her glove," she said.

Earlier in the game Hailey Glynn gave West Seneca a 1-0 lead when she banged in a rebound of Nicole Kirchberger's shot past Msgr. Martin goaltender Courtney Wesolowski from just outside the crease 2:32 into the first period.

The game was a rough and tumble affair throughout. Msgr. Martin coach Chris Malicki said afterward he thought West Seneca would deliberately play a chippy game to draw penalties and get his best players off the ice.

"These games never seem to go the way you want them to," Malicki said. "They threw us off of our game, and that was there plan. I told the girls in the second intermission that we had to get back to our game, and let us dictate. West Seneca did a great job for two periods, but then we settled down and did what we were supposed to do."

West Seneca coach Pete Tonsoline was pleased with his club's performance.

"I can't be more proud of a group," he said. "The score is not always indicative of what you accomplish on the ice. To keep these guys (Msgr. Martin) to two goals was tremendous."