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Jackie Christensen/The Eureka Reporter

Eureka's Mike Price crouches as he collides with a Del Norte player in Crescent City on Friday. Loggers teammate Rawley Kornman (background) looks on.

Loggers and Tigers, co-league champions

by Jackie Christensen, 10/28/2006

The Eureka boys took care of business on their end Friday afternoon in Crescent City by defeating Del Norte 2-0 in prep soccer.

The Loggers and Arcata Tigers are now tied with identical 10-1-1 records, and will share the Humboldt-Del Norte Conference title, but that's not the end of the story.

Because there is no definite league champion, Eureka and Arcata will square off in a tiebreaking playoff match today at 11 a.m. at Arcata to essentially decide which team gets the automatic bid into North Coast Section and will host the first round.

"It's an exciting time for us," said Eureka head coach Daniel Holmes, whose team has won the last seven games in a row. "It's been a long time since the Loggers have been league champions."

Eureka's Rawely Kornman put the Loggers on the board in the first half with a 25-yard boot that gave them a 1-0 lead, which held through the end of the first half.

In the second half, Kornman connected for his second goal of the game off a low, line-driving free kick that slithered through the Del Norte defense, bounced off the right post and into the net.

"We played a little shaky today, but overall I'm very proud of them," Holmes said of his team. "We haven't lost a game since we played Arcata the first time, which was a big goal of ours."

Now the Loggers will face their most difficult challenge of the season today as they play their third game in four days.

"It's going to be quite a task," Holmes said. "We're behind the eight ball a little bit, but I think we'll be OK. It's unfortunate we had to come up here to play this makeup game because the refs didn't show up the first time, but hopefully we can come out and match Arcata's intensity. We know they're going to be hungry after Wednesday."

No passes will be accepted to the game as the contest is a fundraiser for the conference.