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By Dennis Garcia  
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TRINITY - Summer Bowman still relishes the feeling of winning a state soccer championship and the Wheatmore High School senior is doing everything in her power to assure she and her teammates experience that feeling again.

Bowman and the Warriors are certainly headed in that direction, improving to a perfect 20-0 after a 9-0 first-round playoff win over Shelby Monday night. While Ellie Garrison leads the nation in scoring with 84 goals, Bowman deserves plenty of credit as well as she scored twice Monday night to bring her total to 53 goals this season.

"Those two have such a great relationship," WHS coach Rick Maness said of the junior Garrison and senior Bowman. "I always worried that there would be friction. But there has never been a problem and they are always playing to each other. Ellie has some things that Summer doesn't have and Summer has some things that Ellie doesn't. Without Summer, Ellie doesn't get all those goals. She's a special young lady."



*Wheatmore senior forward Summer Bowman.*



*Summer Bowman. Photo by Blue Groove Photos.*

The three-year starter has scored 123 career goals and added a school-record 56 assists. Impressive numbers that may get lost a little due to the offensive prowess of Garrison. Still, Bowman is thrilled to be part of a team that has won 45 straight games and features the nation's leading scorer..

"I support Ellie 100 percent," Bowman said, meaning every word sincerely. "I am so happy she has got the goals she has scored. She deserves it. I am lucky to play with her. I think we are a really good duo and we have that

connection. She is a phenomenal player."

Bowman has been a consistent force for all three varsity seasons.

"Her leadership role," Maness said of Bowman this season. "I have seen her take that role this year and take the bull by the horns. She plays for the team. If we're ahead, she's looking to feed other players when she can easily take the shot. Her soccer IQ is off the chart."

In winning the state 2-A championship last year, the Warriors weren't tested until the third round of the playoffs. Then, two one-goal victories, including one in overtime, lifted the Warriors to the state title game, which they won 4-1.

"It's a crazy feeling to win the state championship and to do it for our school, our county and our little city, it feels awesome," Bowman said.

Though it would be hard to tell by a 189-8 goal differential for the season, Bowman said this year has been tougher than last season. .

"So far, this year has been a lot tougher because we lost some players and picked up some players," Bowman said, adding the Warriors certainly have a target on their backs this season. "The players coming in definitely knew it wasn't going to be an easy thing. We are the reigning state champions. Everyone else wants that feeling again."

With Bowman doing everything in her power to make that happen, the Warriors are in great hands, er, feet.



*Summer Bowman. Photo by Blue Groove Photos.*