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NEW MONMOUTH GIRL WINS NATIONAL SOCCER COMPETITION

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MIDDLETOWN, NJ

Michelle Borghese of New Monmouth, a student at Thorne Middle School recently competed in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Region II Soccer Shoot, and placed first in the Girls Age 12-13 category.



Edward J. Hahn, left Vice President of the Elks South Central District, Michelle Borghese, and John Steakin, Past Exalted Ruler, and Chairman of the Lodge Youth Activities Committee.

Michelle has been a consistent champion in the area of Soccer and in Basketball. She plays for the Middletown "Cyclones", a traveling team, as well as for the Thorne School, and plays basket ball with the BY AA. She also enjoys swimming.

The Region n Soccer Shoot was recently held in Martinsburg, West Virginia where participants from Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey all received a trophy. Each was the winner of events in their respective State. Michelle began winning in the Middletown Elks Lodge #2179 local event, and progressed to the District, Region, and New Jersey levels, taking top honors at each location. The competitors each kicks a soccer ball at a goal divided into different point sections. Michelle was the highest point scoring female for the 2003 event, and was able to help bring back the Kenneth V. Cantoli, trophy back to New Jersey. This is awarded to the State whose participants score the most points for the day. Richard Pachucki, Past State President for the New Jersey State Elks, and Region n Soccer

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Director stated that, " All of these children are champions. They have all won their state titles to get here. Nobody goes home without a trophy"

This is the fourth year in a row that Michelle has placed in the New Jersey State Elks Association event. It has become a family joke because the first year she placed third (3) ; the second year she placed first (1), and also second in the nation; the third year she place third (3) again in New Jersey, and this year again first (1). Her soccer shirt number is #31, the same as Mike Piazza, for whom she is an avid fan. So to the family "31-31 has been the running joke," says Michelle's mother Lisa, " and she enjoys all the kidding."

Michelle is not only an athlete, but serves the community as well. She can be found helping with the food basket distribution for MHIO, and helping with her Dad visiting the Veterans hospital with the Elks Lodge.

For further information about the Elks, and their many programs, contact the Lodge at (732) 495-2733 or the lodge website at <http://middletownelks.com> for more information. The Lodge Soccer shoot falls under the responsibility of the Youth Activities Committee, which is chaired by Past Exalted Ruler John Steakin of Keansburg.

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