

front on the following play, but hard, man," Grier said. "Ken-

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GW BOYS

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Zak Abdul-Jalil's goal off an assist by Elijah Sutton at the 55-minute mark set the final score. That goal essentially buried any hopes the Eagles had of coming back, as they struggled to get, and keep, the ball.

Patriots coach Erik Engle said he was proud of his team for working hard.

"These boys have played blue-collar soccer all season," Engle said, moments before his players doused him with a bucket of ice water in celebration. "Nobody is a standout.

stars. We played together well as a team."

Engle said a 3-0 victory over Parkersburg to clinch third place in the Mountain State Athletic Conference tournament Oct. 4 was the turning point for the Patriots. George Washington was coming off a 3-3 tie with Huntington and needed a boost. The Patriots followed the triumph over the Big Reds with seven victories in their next eight games.

"In that game, we played in a way I hadn't seen early in the season," Engel said. "We started playing such team soccer, playing so unselfish. I could tell it in games and practices. They were just different."

went on a postseason roll, defeating St. Albans 11-0 and Capital 9-0 to win the sectional title, then upsetting Princeton 3-2 to capture the region championship. George Washington beat favored University 2-1 Friday in the state semifinals.

"We came into the tournament underdogs," Engel said. "Nobody expected us to beat Princeton, especially down 2-0. Nobody expected us to beat University."

Beat those teams GW did before topping the season with a shutout by goalkeeper Kevin Tiffey, who stopped two shots Saturday.

Hedgesville finished with a