

Hawks hold 2-0 lead this time to defeat Captains

BY DAN O'NEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Harrison players refused to allow a two-goal lead to go to waste a second time in a girls soccer game Friday. The Hawks had done just that when they played Waterford Kettering the first time on April 1.

In the rematch, Harrison scored the first two goals once again, but this time it held on and made the lead stand for a 2-0 victory over the visiting Captains.

The first half was scoreless, but the Hawks scored the one goal needed to win with 25:25 remaining in the game.

The play started with a throw-in by Alex Cieri, and Jessi Waldeck headed the ball toward the Kettering goal. The goalie misplayed the ball, and Leanne Burns was there to knock it into the net.

The score remained as such until there was just over two minutes left to play when Taylor Wong added an insurance goal.

Stacey Potrykus sent a cross to Wong, who took the initial shot. The ball bounced off teammate Mary Brennan, and Wong made good on her second attempt.

Forward Stephanie Klosek came off the bench to spark the Hawks in the second half, according to Harrison coach "Stacey" Punzal. Klosek played the best game of her career and was instrumental in the win, she added.

"She played a physical and aggressive game," Punzal said. "She just won the ball over their defenders. She had a couple scoring chances she didn't capitalize on, but she had several crosses that opened it up for shots."

Harrison freshman goalie Ashley Avery made five saves and kept the fifth shutout. Previously, it was incorrectly reported she had a fifth shutout Tuesday.

The Hawks outshot the Captains, 9-5. Kettering didn't have a shot on goal in the second half, however.

"The second half seems to be

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our half of the game," Punzal said. "For some reason, we can't seem to put things together in the first half, or we start late in the first half and really turn it on in the second half."

The offense deserves some credit for the Captains having no legitimate shots in the second half, Punzal said.

"We kept the ball down in their end," she said. "Once the forwards started to put things together, we kept the pressure on, and the midfield helped to keep the ball in their end. So we really took the pressure off the defense."

Harrison is 3-1-3 in the Oakland Activities Association Division III and 4-1-3 overall.

FARMINGTON 3, AYONDALE 0: Farmington returned to competition following spring break Thursday, and the result was a 3-0 victory over host Auburn Hills Avengers.

"It was a good, hard fought game by both teams," Farmington coach Steve Montgomery said. "We had a lot of good stuff going today when that happens, you usually get good results."

The Falcons improved their OAA Division III and overall records to 4-2-1 prior to playing North Farmington in an OAA crossover game Friday night.

Farmington led 2-0 at halftime following goals by Mary Peszek and Chrissy Fleck. Lindsay Evans scored in the second half. Fleck, Joyce Rose and Erica Rose had assists.

At 27:53 in the first half, Fleck sent a chip shot cross to Peszek, who "got a foot on it and slammed it right by the goalie," according to Montgomery.

The Falcons later moved the ball through the midfield, and Erica Rose passed it to the front of the opposing net.

Joyce Rose made a touch and Fleck finished the play with 9:19 remaining in the first half.

Erica Rose sent a through ball to Evans, who beat the Ayondale keeper one-on-one 10 minutes into the second half.

"Lindsay had a really good game," Montgomery said. "She dominated their defense and put them under tremendous pressure."

"Every time she got the ball they were giving up. She has good foot skills and was beating them one-on-one. She's a dangerous player when she gets the ball."

Farmington goalie Kate Kelly earned her fourth shutout of the season. The Falcons outshot the Yellow Jackets, 12-4, however, the home team did have six corner kicks, which allowed a some additional chances.

"When you're playing a good team and get that many legitimate shots, you're having a good day," Montgomery said.

"I thought Erica, Joyce and Mary really worked well together. They connected for a lot of good passes, and that allowed us to control the midfield and keep the pressure on Ayondale."

Katy Johnson played her best game of the season. At stopper, Montgomery said. Defenders Maggie Vallancourt and Kelly Hay and midfielder Kristen Petila were standouts, too he added.

Fleck, Katie Peszek and Alex Klosek also had a lot of quality playing time, according to Montgomery.

N. FARMINGTON 2, MOTT 0: North Farmington extended its unbeaten streak to eight games Thursday with a 2-0 victory over host Waterford Mott.

Coolidge Bridge Bees recorded their fifth shutout of the season as the Raiders improved to 4-0-2 in the OAA Division III and 6-0-2 overall.

North was in control of the game and outshot Mott, 9-0. The Corsairs had nothing but rollers into the box, according to Raiders coach Tim Russell.

"They weren't even shots, just long passes," he said. "Obviously, you have to credit the whole team for that. Most of the game (Mott) didn't even get the ball into our defensive third."

Annie Gabriel took a pass from Catherine Munaco and drilled a shot from 15 yards past the Mott keeper at 29:20 in the first half.

The Raiders added an insurance goal with 23:11 remaining in the game. Ashley Lynch worked the ball loose on the left side, and Alex Klosek drilled a shot into the upper right corner.

"It was a terribly sloppy game because of the weather," Russell said. "It was cold and the players' legs were heavy. It just better as the game went along."

In the second half, the Corsairs weren't getting the ball over the midfield unless they drilled it from 40 or 50 yards. But we collected it and took it back at them."

Michelle Boothroyd was still playing ill but did a great job at midfield, switching to sweeper later in the game for defensive emphasis, Russell said.

"She brought it all together and made some great tackles and side tackles," Christine Taylor, who played stopper and forward had one of her better games and was solid at the front of the defense, he added.

MERCY O, BISHOP FOLEY 0: Farmington Hills Mercy battled perennial power Madison Heights Bishop Foley to a scoreless tie for the second time this season Thursday.

"We possessed the ball a lot, we had pretty good control most of the time," Mercy coach Liana Mastore said, adding each team had about eight to 10 shots.

"It was raining, too, so the ball was skipping. We got to the ball pretty well, the only thing we couldn't do was finish. I thought we played well."

"I think (the offense) as starting to come together a little better. Before the break, we started to click and score some goals."

"Then we had the break. Unfortunately, the timing was right when we had some more time gone."

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and meaning to a player instead of trying to make a 30-yard pass. We had to get our passing game together rather than send a long ball and have to fight for it."

The Falcons had 14 shots on goal and the Raiders three, according to Montgomery. Evans, Mary Peszek, Joyce Rose, Hay and Erica Rose had one assist each.

"We wanted to be more selective and patient," Montgomery said, "and we were trying to serve the ball to other people who may be in a better position."

"We emphasized keeping the ball, below the crossbar, all the time, because then you have a chance for rebounds and other plays. If the ball goes over the top, then it's just a turnover. I don't think we had one wild,

over-the-top shot today," Kristen Petila scored the first goal at the 31-minute mark of the first half. Otherwise, the teams appeared evenly matched through halftime.

"(The Raiders) played a good, hard game," Montgomery said. "They put a lot of pressure on the ball, and we were having a little problem with our passing game in the beginning. They played a good first half."

North coach Tim Russell said his players were relaxed and felt good about their play in the first half despite being down a goal at halftime.

"I think that was part of our undoing," he said. "It's human nature; they kinda calmed down. They got very emotional in the first half. We were passing the ball well and winning our share of 50-50 balls."

"The second half we came out flat. It was a combination of that and having a young defense. We haven't faced a lot of adversity. Basically, we didn't

handle it very well. Farmington took advantage of it; that's to their credit."

"It's funny to say, but we walked away thinking we still have a lot of good things going. We still stand at the top of our division, and we know what things we have to fix. Now character will determine where we go from here."

It was the fifth shutout for Farmington goalie Kate Kelly. Montgomery called the win a team effort, but defenders Erin Deroo, Maggie Vallancourt, Mallory McGee and Katy Johnson deserved to share credit for the shutout.

"Our defense has been playing very well," Montgomery said. "If they stop the other team or only let in one goal, I'm happy and they've done their job. Then they need help at the other end of the field where we want (the attackers) to score two goals or more."

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