



Monday April 19, 2010

ACADEMY TEAMS TIE BOTH ON THE ROAD
U16's draw 0-0 and U18s draw 2-2

From Coach Gunn:

Saturday we traveled to Greensboro to resume our divisional play. Greensboro has always been a difficult opponent for us and this game proved to be no different. Having sung the praises of the boys for so many stellar performances in a row, I have to be honest and state that the energy level and commitment was lacking in the first half. We were second best in almost every department, and for once we didn't look the sharper team. The second half saw some improvements, but as is often the case if you allow a team to settle into a confident mode it is tough to grasp the initiative back. The game really didn't have the same soccer flow as many of our past games, but at least the later stages became quite lively with both teams pushing for a win. In the end we managed to record yet another shut-out, thanks mainly to Stefan Knapp in goal, and center backs Matt Brown and Matt Van Dyne turning in solid displays. I think we can look at the positive side and say that despite being sluggish we were still good enough to be in the game. Looking forward, as a team we will need to be more pro-active in our next outings if we want to make a push for a second Divisional Championship, and a play-off bid.

From Coach Butler:

We started brightly on Saturday against Greensboro. Our passing was good and we really went at Greensboro in the first half with the wind behind us. Good combination play and then a foul 35 yards out meant a direct free kick in our favor in the 28th minute. Robby Beatty stepped up and rifled the ball into the top left hand corner of the goal to put us ahead 1-0. Unfortunately the lead would only last four minutes. A ball was played into the Greensboro center forward at the halfway line; he was allowed to turn and then played in the left winger who was unmarked. The boy drove forward but pushed the ball too far; Nick Hensley came to claim the ball but in the process was adjudged to have brought the player down in the box. Although Hensley got his finger tips to the ball the ball was well struck enough to hit the back of the net from the ensuing penalty kick. We went into the interval at 1-1 but I felt we were on top of Greensboro and felt good about our prospects for the second half.

Greensboro came out of half time better than us and although they had better possession they did not threaten our goal. In fact it was us who went closest when Alex Leonard had a powerful header tipped over the bar by the Greensboro goal keeper from a Brett Luccia cross from the left side. We continued to try to win the ball back from Greensboro and press for the winning goal. A perfectly timed through ball from Luccia found Asa Kryst and got in 1v1 against the goal keeper only to shoot over. We had turned the game around by midway through the second half but it was Greensboro who went 2-1 up after fifty five minutes. A deep cross from the left side found its way to the back post and an unmarked Greensboro right winger. After a poor touch the ball bobbed around in the area before a Greensboro player slotted home into the bottom left hand corner. With twenty five minutes left we pressed for the equalizer and two substitutions were made. Jason Chapman and Kyle Searles came in in place of Nick Barnhorst and Connor Miller. The changes paid dividends as in the 81st minute when Searles received the ball on the right side of the pitch, cut in and released a good diagonal ball into Chapman. Chapman pushed the ball by the right back, got to the touch line and pulled the ball across the face of the goal where Beatty applied the finishing touch from a yard out to make it 2-2. That was the way it finished even though we pressed for the winner. It was a good display overall but a couple of lapses let Greensboro in and allowed them to get a tie.

The two teams next will play on April 25 away at McLean.



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