

A conference win at last

Written by STEVE OSTERMANN
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Shut-down performance against Lutheran gives Port girls their first North Shore soccer victory since 2007

A long soccer drought ended last week for the Port Washington High School girls' soccer team.

Make that, an ultra-dry drought.



With a 2-0 road win over Milwaukee Lutheran on April 25, the Pirates had their first North Shore Conference victory since 2007 — ending a 37-game losing streak.

“It was a long time in coming,” said Port coach Mike Bultman, who noted that most of his players are too young to remember anything about the team’s previous league win.

“There haven’t been a lot of wins in the last six or seven years, and we (the coaches) told the girls to enjoy this one. They made some history.”

By breaking through in their 2013 conference opener, the Pirates continued to show progress in their most recent rebuilding effort. They are in their second year with Bultman at the varsity helm.

The Pirates dominated Lutheran, piling up a 32-9 advantage in shots and collecting a goal in each half.

Port got the only goal it needed just 90 seconds into the game. Freshman Sarah Spaeth did the honors with an assist from Abby Becker.

“After that, we just tried to beat their goalkeeper the rest of the first half instead of moving the ball,” Bultman said. “It didn’t work.”

With the wind at their backs in the second half, the Pirates kept the pressure on Lutheran’s

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defense. Their 23-shot barrage in the second half included an insurance goal in the 63rd minute by freshman Brooke Effinger, assisted by Becker.

“Two freshmen scored for us, but it was everybody doing their job that made the difference,” Bultman said.

“Sarah Maechtle played the whole game in goal for us. She and the other four girls in the back kept us stable.”

The win was Port’s first in conference play since May 8, 2007, when it defeated Nicolet, 2-1. The Pirates were 1-6 in the conference that season and then went winless in league games the next five years.

“We’re doing it by small steps,” Bultman said.

“Will we get another conference win this season? I don’t know. But I know we’re getting better.”

Port Washington 7, Brown Deer 0

The Pirates stayed on a roll with an easy nonconference road win last Saturday that improved their season mark to 3-1-1.

A first-half hat trick by junior forward Miranda Wieck sparked the rout, during which Port built a 6-0 lead by the 32nd minute.

Wieck had goals in the fifth, 22nd and 24th minutes. The Pirates’ other first-half goals included two by Becker and one by Spaeth.

In the second period, Tatiana Ortiz capped the scoring with a goal assisted by Brooke Buser.

Buser finished with two assists, and Blair Kennedy, Courtney Koller, Ortiz and Spaeth had one piece.

“We controlled the game and had a big lead at halftime, but I didn’t want to keep scoring goals,” Bultman said. “That wouldn’t have done us or Brown Deer any good.”

This week, the Pirates were ready to face three tougher tests, starting with a conference game against Whitefish Bay on Tuesday.

Port was scheduled to host Nicolet in an NSC makeup game at 7 p.m. Wednesday and travel to Oostburg on Friday for a 4:30 p.m. nonconference match.

On May 7, Port will host Germantown at 7 p.m.

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Image Information: JUNIOR FORWARD Miranda Wieck scored three goals in Port Washington's 7-0 soccer win over Brown Deer last Saturday. The victory came two days after Port blanked Milwaukee Lutheran, 2-0, to snap a 37-game losing streak in North Shore Conference play. Photo by Sam Arendt