

Scoreless but unbowed

Written by STEVE OSTERMANN
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Port soccer team fails to find net but shows improvement in three-game stretch that includes a tie

It's not often that a soccer team can fail to score in three straight games and still have a sense of accomplishment.



Although his squad had to settle for two North Shore Conference losses and a nonconference tie last week, Port coach Mike Bultman isn't complaining.

"We played some good soccer. We lost to two teams that are just better than we are at this point, and had a tie in another game we could have won," he said.

"It really wasn't a bad week."

Port capped the week by battling host Oostburg to a 0-0 tie in a nonleague match Friday.

The Pirates played well defensively but were unable to take advantage of several good scoring chances, according to Bultman.

"I don't think Oostburg had many dangerous opportunities on goal against us," he said of the 100-minute standoff, which included two 10-minute overtimes.

"Offensively, we had plenty of opportunities to win but couldn't convert. That's something we have to keep working on.

"As a coach, you can teach players how to shoot but you can't teach them how to score. They have to learn how to finish."

Bultman singled out the play of freshman goalkeeper Allison Lessila and defenders Jessica Moeller, Tatiana Ortiz, Bridget Faldet and Laura Bultman.

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“All of them played all 100 minutes and were really solid,” he said.

The draw left Port with a 3-3-2 season record.

Nicolet 5, Port Washington 0

A shaky first half saddled the Pirates with a home loss in a conference makeup game May 1.

With the wind at its back in the first half, Nicolet unleashed a barrage of long scoring shots that produced a 5-0 lead by intermission.

Port was unable to cash in during the second half but stood firm defensively.

“Nicolet just kept the ball on our end of the field in the first half,” coach Bultman said. “After that, we held them. We were able to keep the ball and create a few scoring opportunities.”

Whitefish Bay 5, Port Washington 0

The host Blue Dukes controlled play on their artificial-turf field but had to work hard for a conference win April 30.

Mariah Downs scored twice to give Bay a 2-0 lead at halftime. Two more goals in the first five minutes of the second period settled the outcome.

“We’re not going to beat Bay yet, but we played them pretty well,” said coach Bultman, whose team had started last week with a three-game winning streak.

“We made them work, which was a positive.”

Sarah Maechtle started in goal for the Pirates and had 12 first-half saves before giving way to Lessila, who stopped 17 shots in the second period.

This week, Port was scheduled to face Germantown in an NSC game Tuesday and will host Kewaskum in a 7 p.m. nonconference match Thursday.

On May 14, the Pirates will travel to Cedarburg for a 7 p.m. league game.

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Image Information: PORT GOALKEEPER Allison Lessila made a sliding stop on a shot during her team's North Shore Conference game against Nicolet. Photo by Sam Arendt