

Missed chances leave Port with soccer draw

Written by STEVE OSTERMANN
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Pirates' early lead fades in tie with Brookfield Academy; Grafton shut down by Bay

After being sidelined most of last week by uncooperative weather, the Port Washington girls' soccer team finally got back on the field last Friday.



The host Pirates' return to play yielded mixed results, as they battled Brookfield Academy to a 1-1 tie in a nonconference match.

"It was disappointing. We completely outplayed them in the first half but let things get away from us in the second half," Port coach Mike Bultman said.

"We started playing very tentatively."

The Pirates came out aggressive on offense and took the lead on Brianna Schnell's unassisted goal in the 33rd minute.

"We controlled the ball. Our goalkeeper in the first half (Allison Lessila) faced very few shots," Bultman said.

The lead stood until the 48th minute, when Abigail Curran's goal drew Brookfield Academy even.

"We had a miscleared ball, and it cost us," Bultman said.

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The score remained deadlocked through regulation and two 10-minute overtimes.

Bultman praised the play of midfielders Alli Klotz and Blair Kennedy, who helped spark the Pirates in the opening period.

Goalkeeper Jennie Novak had 12 saves to keep the Blue Knights in the game.

The match left Port at 1-3-2 overall and Brookfield Academy at 3-5-2.

The Pirates' North Shore Conference game against Cedarburg on April 29 was postponed by rain. It has been rescheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, at Port.

This week, Port was scheduled to face Milwaukee Lutheran in an NSC game Tuesday, will host Oostburg in nonconference play at 7 p.m. Thursday and participate in the Kettle Moraine Lutheran quadrangular at 10 a.m. Saturday.

On May 13, the Pirates will travel to Grafton for a 7 p.m. conference match.

Whitefish Bay 5, Grafton 0

Defensive breakdowns handed the Grafton soccer team a North Shore Conference road loss April 29.

State-ranked Bay scored a goal in the first minute and built a 3-0 lead by halftime. Taylor Kerwin had two of the goals.

In the second period, Caroline Fink scored twice.

"There were times we were able to get control of the ball and mount an attack, but only in very small amounts," Grafton coach Don Arnold.

"We had a lot of defensive mistakes and definitely have to clean up a lot of things.

"When you have those problems against a quality opponent, they make you pay."

The loss came in the Black Hawks' only game last week and left them at 0-2 in NSC play and 3-4 overall.

This week, Grafton faced Germantown in a conference game Tuesday and will play in the Red Devil Invitational hosted by Green Bay East on Saturday.

On May 12, the Hawks will host Port Washington in a 7 p.m. conference match.

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Image information: PORT WASHINGTON'S Brianna Schnell scored her team's lone goal during a draw with Brookfield Academy in nonconference play last Friday. Photo by Sam Arendt