

Miscue costs Rockets on road

Written by Steve Ostermann
Wednesday, 14 April 2010 14:44

The margin for error often makes the difference in games between two closely matched teams.

The Cedar Grove-Belgium girls' soccer squad knows the feeling.

A defensive miscue in the Rockets' season opener Monday contributed to a 1-0 loss at Howards Grove in Central Lakeshore Conference play.

"We played really well, but I think the young kids were a little apprehensive, a little nervous early in the game," Cedar Grove-Belgium coach Papi Pozo said.

"The game could have gone either way, but we made some mistakes that cost us."

Both teams had trouble generating scoring chances, but the host Tigers got the only goal they needed midway through the first period.

Brooke Schaller did the honors, finding the net off a cross from Natalie Jaeger, who dribbled through the Rockets' defense to set up the game winner.

"We just missed getting to the ball and let a player go between two defenders," Pozo said. "We made a mistake."

Cedar Grove-Belgium, whose lineup includes several freshmen, regrouped and stayed in contention the rest of the way.

The Rockets' best scoring chance came in the second half when midfielder Liz Pritzl had an open shot, but her attempt sailed over the crossbar.

Cedar Grove-Belgium was outshot, 8-5, for the game.

"It was a tough loss, but I think the girls settled down and were a little more at ease as the game went on," Pozo said.

"I was very pleased with the effort. I think we will continue to get better."

Close games with Howards Grove are nothing new for the Rockets. Last year, the teams split a pair of CLC matches, with Cedar Grove-Belgium losing, 3-2, and then winning, 1-0, in overtime.

The Rockets will continue conference play Thursday with a 4:30 p.m. game at Sheboygan Lutheran and then host Oostburg at 6 p.m. April 20.