Written by Steve Ostermann
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Scalone's score gives Ozaukee just enough to edge CG-B in soccer due

When two closely matched soccer teams tangle in a defensive battle, the margin of error often becomes remarkably thin.

Although the Ozaukee girls' squad was only able to cash in on one scoring opportunity Monday night, that was enough for the Warriors to escape with a 1-0 win over host Cedar Grove-Belgium in a hard-fought Central Lakeshore Conference game.

Mari Scalone came up with the winner, netting a shot off a free kick by Jeanette Lapinski in the 38th minute.

"We had several nice looks offensively inside their box, but we couldn't find the back of the net for a while," said Ozaukee coach Eric Liebergen, whose team improved its second-place conference record to 4-1.

"Our persistence paid off."

Cedar Grove-Belgium coach Papi Pozo described the game as "a tough loss that could have been different."

“We had some chances, but we’re missing a lot of shots,” he said.

Pozo also lamented a defensive breakdown that he said helped set up Scalone’s goal.

“Our marking was poor on that play. We got caught watching the ball instead of marking,” he said.

The Rockets, who slipped to 2-3 in the conference, were slowed by injuries that prevented two of their top scoring threats, senior forwards Mariah Keller and Erika Kirst, from playing at full speed, Pozo said.

“They’re both hurt, so we were limited at those positions,” he said. “We have to try new combinations.”

Liebergen praised the play of Scalone, Kait Beck, Lapinski and Katie Bares for providing “quality opportunities in the early going.”

Freshman goalkeeper Erika Karrels helped preserve the shutout with three saves. Liebergen also singled out defenders Ashley Orten and Brittany Schueller for making key stops in the closing minutes.

Cedar Grove-Belgium had a nonconference game against Roncalli on Tuesday, will play a 4:30 p.m. CLC game at Sheboygan Christian on Thursday and host the Rocket Quad at 9 a.m. Saturday.

The round-robin tournament will also include Living Word Lutheran, North Fond du Lac and Lomira.

On May 4, the Rockets will host Elkhart Lake at 4:30 p.m.

Ozaukee will play 4:30 p.m. league games at home against Howards Grove on Thursday and at Sheboygan Lutheran/Kohler on May 4.

MIDFIELDER JEANETTE LAPINSKI cut past a pair of Elkhart Lake players during Ozaukee’s 3-2 win in a Central Lakeshore Conference game last week. Ozaukee improved its league record to 4-1 by edging Cedar Grove-Belgium, 1-0, on

Monday. Photo by Sam Arendt