

SPORTS

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Girls soccer: Bartlett's big 2nd half drops Burlington C.

By: Craig Brueske

Trailing Burlington Central 2-1 at halftime, Bartlett's girls soccer team stayed composed while looking forward to having strong winds on its side for the second 40-minute half.

"At halftime, our coaches were telling us that it's not like we have an automatic win," said Hawks senior defender Paige Bednarke. "We still needed to use the wind to our advantage."

That they did.

Bartlett (3-0-2) unleashed its potent offensive attack on the Rockets (1-2), scoring 4 unanswered second-half goals during its 5-2 victory in Monday's opening round of the annual Rose Augsburg Drach Invitational at St. Charles East.

Less than a minute into the second half, senior midfielder Mikayla Brown blasted a 35-yard shot that found its way into the back of the net to tie the contest at 2-2.

"It was something I don't think we were planning on being that direct with it but after we started to hit a couple (shots) on goal, I think the girls realized that the wind definitely was a major factor adding to the force of their kicks," said Hawks coach Vince Revak.

A little more than 10 minutes later, Bednarke notched the eventual game-winner on a header off a corner kick from Brown, who also netted the Hawks' lone first-half tally.

"In years past, we've struggled with even heading the ball so that (goal) was wonderful to see," said Revak.

Freshman Tessa Evans added the Hawks' fourth goal when she spun around and delivered a 30-yard shot high into the right corner of the net midway through the second half.

Several minutes later, Bednarke capped the scoring with her 40-yard free kick.

"The wind took it and helped us out in that situation," said Revak.

"We started taking a couple more chances (in the second half). We knew they (the Rockets) would adjust for it (wind) but there's only so much you can adjust for when you're in the middle of a game. We told the girls, 'If you feel like it, take a chance,' and it worked out for us today."

Despite the second-half onslaught, the Hawks began the final 40 minutes with a patient approach.

"We needed to take it five minutes at a time -- that's what our coach tells us," said Bednarke. "It's not 40 minutes -- it's 40 minutes broken up. I think taking it five minutes at a time is really helpful and beneficial for our team because you take it in small intervals rather than it being so overwhelming knowing we need to score two goals to win.

"We tried to score one in the first five minutes, one in the next five minutes and keep it going from there. That's exactly what happened."

Burlington Central grabbed a 1-0 lead in the 25th minute as freshman Sydney Tecza put away a picture-perfect cross from junior Zoey Kollhoff.

Kollhoff scored her fourth goal of the season on a 35-yard free kick in the 33rd minute, giving the Rockets a short-lived 2-1 lead at the intermission.

"It's not necessarily the score that I'm concerned about with these girls," said Rockets coach Jessica Arneson. "It's more that we dropped our heads completely after they (the Hawks) scored that third one."

Burlington Central returns to face the host Saints Wednesday.

"We are looking for competition on turf fields as much as possible," said Arneson. "At the beginning of the season, we want to see teams like this (Bartlett, STC East) that will help us grow."

Boys volleyball: Bartlett slips past Glenbard North

By: Bobby Narang

Jacob Bush and Toiyon Walton share a special kinship on the volleyball court that dates back to eighth grade.

The Bartlett seniors plan on making their final season together as teammates a memorable one.

Walton added 7 kills and Bush had 4 kills to spark the Hawks to a 25-20, 25-20 nonconference win over Glenbard North on Monday.

Senior Matt Tomasek tallied 7 kills and 5 digs and senior Martin Radomski finished with 5 kills for the Hawks. Senior Carter Burzlaff compiled 21 assists.

Bush and Walton have sparked the Hawks to an 9-2 start. Walton and Bush have played on the same team for five straight years, starting with their introduction to the sport.

"We both had never played volleyball before and it started off with a joke with us," Walton said. "They announced (tryouts) in the morning, and (Jacob) asked me during lunch if I wanted to try out for the team? I said yes. We ended up liking it a lot and continued it for the next four years.

Bush, a Dominican University recruit, and Walton both played on the junior varsity during their freshman year before getting promoted to the varsity as sophomores.

"We both fell in love with volleyball and been going with it ever since," Bush said. "It's been an amazing ride and I don't know what I'm going to do when it's over."

Bartlett coach Robert Schwantz said he's leaning on his nine seniors to lead the team this year. He noted that Walton and Bush have come up big thus far this season.

"Jacob is such a presence in the middle and a leader," he said. "Toiyon can really jump. I have so many leaders. That's one of my riches. We're all in this together as a team. We have a ton of senior leadership. We've been building this for three years, and they've all made an investment waiting for this year. They know we have big goals: To win conference and a regional title."

The Hawks showed their experience by not unfolding when the Panthers (3-4) made several runs in the two games. Walton came up big at the end of both games, while Burzlaff had numerous big plays.

The Panthers, who have only two senior returnees, rarely led in both games, seizing a 19-18 lead in the first game following a block kill by Tyler Tripp before the Hawks pulled away. In Game 2 the Panthers trailed until taking a 15-14, but just like the opening game the Hawks responded with a game-winning run. Senior Ian Krohn and Alberto Solorio led the Panthers with 4 kills each.

"We've been switching up our lineup a bit trying to find out what works for our team," Glenbard North coach Debra Debenedetti said. "We just have to lessen our errors and clean up our game."