

Tecumseh Boys Soccer Team falls in season opener.

By David Dysinger

The Tecumseh boy's soccer team travelled to Vandalia-Butler High School for their season opening game on Saturday, August 29th with high expectations. This group believes that they are one of the best teams to have ever worn a Tecumseh jersey and they took the field with that kind of confidence.

Butler had the opening kickoff and possessed the ball only briefly before the Arrows intercepted a pass and took over. For the next 20 minutes, Tecumseh was on the attack and took numerous shots on goal. The Arrows actually banked one shot off of the goal post and another off of the crossbar. Butler's goalie was forced to make several saves, while the Arrows keeper rarely touched the ball at all. At that point, it seemed inevitable that the Arrows would not only win the game, but they would likely win it by a significant margin.

After 22 minutes of Arrows domination, Vandalia drew a foul near the end line by the Arrow's goal. Vandalia has several players over six feet tall that represent their aerial threats on this type of restart and the Aviator's kicker found one of them on the far post. Though the Arrows had this man covered, the taller Butler player out jumped the Arrows defender and scored the header with 18 minutes left in the first half. This was the first shot that the Aviator's had even taken in the entire game and now they found themselves in the lead 1-0.

The game had been physical all along, but at this point the physicality really began to escalate. It was only two minutes later when the Arrows were dealt another blow. Junior Cameron Fritschie took a shot to the back of the head while winning a head ball and was knocked out of the game. He left the field under his own power, but was unable to return due to the nature of his injury. The Arrows continued to be the aggressors for the remainder of the half, but were unable to find the back of the net.

In the second half, Butler began to possess the ball more effectively and the match became even more intense. The possession was very even at this point and there were many battles being waged on the field. Several yellow cards were given as tempers flared with only one going to an Arrows player. Butler was fighting to hold on to their lead and Tecumseh was giving all they had to salvage the day. As the clock ticked down, the Arrows began to commit extra resources to the attack and ultimately, that gave Vandalia the opportunity to clinch their victory. The Arrows were pushed forward into the attack when Butler won possession and kicked the ball over the defense in a quick counterattack. One of their speedy strikers beat the defense to the ball and punched it into the goal with about 10 minutes remaining in the game. Though the Arrows continued to attack and had several good scoring opportunities, Vandalia managed to hold on for the victory. The Vandalia-Butler Aviators defeated the Tecumseh Arrows by a final score of 2-0.

The Arrows home opener will be against CBC opponent Indian Lake on Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:00pm.