

## Tecumseh stuns Fairborn with late goals for a dramatic victory.

By David Dysinger

Tecumseh hosted the Fairborn Skyhawks Saturday, September 5th in a non-league contest between two boy's varsity soccer teams with something to prove. Tecumseh opened their season with a heart breaking loss to Vandalia-Butler, who is proving to be a force in the GWOC, and the Arrows were eager to prove that they can play against the big dogs and win. The Skyhawks walked into Spitzer stadium with a 4-1 record knowing that Tecumseh represented one of their toughest challenges to date. While the result of the game would hold no bearing on either team's league standings, it would be an important factor in post-season tournament seeding. Both teams expected to win and from the opening kickoff, the atmosphere was electric.

In what is beginning to look like an Arrows team trademark, they had their first quality shot within the game's first minute. From that point on, both teams played a wide open, attacking game. Just as in their previous contests, the Arrows seemed to have the advantage in possession, but the Skyhawks possessed the ball well too. Fairborn featured a very dangerous pair of strikers that were quite fast and physical. The Arrows countered those strikers with junior marking backs Travis Jones and Justin Helt. Both these Arrows' defenders are notoriously physical themselves and they effectively harassed the Skyhawks' strikers for the entire game. After 40 minutes of full-blast soccer, the first half drew to a close with contest knotted up in a 0-0 tie.

In the 2nd half, both teams were pressing hard for that first goal. The Arrows were finding success breaking through the Skyhawks' defensive line with their own physical, speedy attackers and Fairborn's defenders were being pushed to their limits by the relentless attacks. But, as fate would have it, the Skyhawks were the first to find the net. After 62 minutes of scoreless soccer, the Skyhawks banged in a head goal from a corner kick to take a 1-0 lead.

With 18:15 remaining in the contest the Arrows went back to work with no sense of panic on the field. Tecumseh showed great composure and kept executing their roles. As time slipped away, the Arrows slashing attacks in front of the Skyhawks goal finally paid off. The Skyhawks defenders were struggling to keep up with the relentless pressure and one of them made the mistake of fouling junior Neil Lindsey in the penalty box. The Arrows were awarded a well-deserved penalty kick that junior Cameron Fritschie easily fired into the corner of the goal. With 4:45 remaining in the game, the score was tied 1-1.

The game intensified as the teams battled back and forth and once again, under intense Arrows offensive pressure, the Skyhawks made a critical mistake. They committed a foul in the middle of the field about 20 yards from the goal. Sophomore Jordan Gozelski stepped up to take the kick while the remaining Arrows attackers began to cross back and forth in front of the goal, wreaking havoc on the Skyhawks defense as they tried to mark up the potential target player. As it turned out, there was no target player. Gozelski effortlessly drilled the ball past the defensive wall and into the upper 90 for the game winning goal with 2:04 remaining in the contest. The Skyhawks applied tremendous pressure for the remaining moments of the game but the Arrows weathered the storm to win the contest 2-1.

The Arrows next game will be at Greenon in their 2<sup>nd</sup> CBC match of the season. The game is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:15.