

Arrows blank Cougars 1-0.

By David Dysinger

The Tecumseh boy's varsity soccer team journeyed to Kenton Ridge for their third consecutive away game on Monday September 28th. The Arrows and the Cougars both entered the game with aspirations of winning the CBC title this year and the stage was set for a high stakes game between two of the league powerhouses. The Arrows entered the game with a 5-1-0 CBC record (7-2-0 overall) and the Cougars had a 4-2-0 record (6-3-0 overall). Both teams are notorious for scoring in bunches and for allowing very few goals. What unfolded over the course of the next hour and twenty minutes was a unsparing defensive war.

In the early minutes of the game, a very enthusiastic Kenton Ridge team was applying extreme pressure on the Tecumseh defense. Several minutes into the game, the Cougar's star striker Mohammad Salhieh actually found himself in front of the goal with the ball and behind the Arrow's defense. But, senior keeper Jacob Heckman dodged a bullet when Salhieh fired the ball harmlessly over the goal. That would prove to be the last open look that Kenton Ridge would get at the Tecumseh goal and it seemed to provide the wakeup call the Arrows needed. From that point forward, the possession was noticeably in the Arrows favor. When the Cougars would take possession of the ball, the Arrows defense was suffocating.

The Arrows junior marking back Travis Jones had the job of marking Salhieh and he was more than up to the task. They battled over and over throughout the game and both of them were likely black and blue by the time the match ended. But, Jones successfully kept the Cougar's star at bay for the entire game. Anytime it looked as if Salhieh might get the best of Jones, one of the other Arrows defenders would swoop in and knock the ball away. Junior marking back Justin Helt, sophomore sweeper Chase Culbertson and sophomore stopper Jordan Gozelski all played key roles in the Arrows defensive stand.

The only goal of the game came with 7:14 remaining in the first half. Tecumseh senior Nick Dysinger spotted fellow senior Zach Schwartz making a run at the Kenton Ridge defense. Dysinger slotted the ball through to Schwartz, who showed great speed and composure as he beat the defenders to the ball and slammed it into the goal for what would prove to be the game winner.