

Tecumseh defeats Springfield Shawnee 5-1.

By David Dysinger

The Tecumseh boy's soccer team hosted the Shawnee Braves on Monday, October 5th and had their senior night celebration immediately before the game. The Arrows have seven seniors this year, including four year letter winner Zach Schwartz, three year letterman Jacob Heckman, two year lettermen Chase Budurka, Nick Dysinger, Robert Erickson, Cory Wiley and first year letter winner Aaron Seebeck. Each of the seniors and their parents were recognized before the game for their contributions to building the Tecumseh soccer program. During the four years these seniors have been in high school, they have seen the team go from a losing record in 2006 to the current record breaking squad of which they are a part this season. By any standard, these seniors have had very successful soccer careers and should be commended for a job well done.

At Tecumseh, it is customary for all of the seniors to start the game on senior night. So, for the first time this season, all the seniors took the field together. From the opening kickoff, the Arrows were pressing the pace of the game and dominating possession.

With 29:06 remaining in the first half, senior captain Nick Dysinger sent a pass between two defenders to fellow senior captain Zach Schwartz, who promptly blasted the ball into the goal for an Arrows lead of 1-0. Sixteen minutes later, Shawnee tied the game back up on a chaotic play that ended with a Shawnee striker getting behind the Arrows defense and kicking the ball into an open goal for a score of 1-1.

As the clock wound towards halftime, it looked certain that the score would remain tied when Tecumseh junior Cameron Fritschie and sophomore Jordan Gozelski took matters into their own hands. Fritschie sent a rolling cross to Gozelski, who hammered it past the goalie to retake the lead with 6 seconds on the clock. The Arrows took a 2-1 lead into halftime.

In the second half, the Arrows continued to have the advantage and with 26:45 remaining in the game, they extended their lead. Junior Neil Lindsey dribbled down the left side of the field to the end line and sent a rolling cross in front of the goal. Dysinger sprinted into position, slid between a pair of defenders and knocked the ball into the goal to increase the Arrows lead to 3-1.

The Arrows continued to attack for the next twenty minutes with no change in the score when suddenly Shawnee's goalie gave up a rebound in front of the goal. Fritschie gained control of the ball and fired it into the goal giving the Arrows a 4-1 lead with 5:45 remaining in the game.

Just like the end of the first half, the final goal of the match came in the final seconds of the game. With 29 seconds remaining on the clock, the Arrows had a direct kick just outside of the penalty box. Seniors Schwartz and Dysinger had teamed up to start the scoring on this senior night and they decided to do it again to end it. This time Schwartz provided the assist with a well-placed pass and Dysinger headed it past the goalie for a 5-1 Tecumseh victory.