

Coffey Hits Gamewinner for 5th Lady Arrow Win

By Tom Minutolo

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-St. Paris

The Tecumseh Lady Arrow Soccer Team celebrated their 5th win of the season in a very dramatic fashion as freshman Jaela Coffey sank a penalty kick with 16 seconds left on the clock for a 1-0 win over the Graham Lady Falcons on Monday.

From the beginning of the game to the bitter end this was a very physical contest just like so many other previous engagements with the Falcons . The first half saw plenty of fouls given on both sides with neither team being able to launch very many shots. Senior Guadalupe Mendoza had the first shot for Tecumseh at 28:40 but it was easily scooped up by the Falcon goalkeeper, Maggie Grieser. The Falcons on the other hand had the always dangerous senior midfielder, Alex Mannier who launched a couple of early shots that rattled the goalposts but did not go in.

On this night there were several players for Tecumseh who performed beyond their years and really made a difference in the game. Sophomore goalkeeper Kellie Gruber had 15 saves in the contest and on at least 4 occasions made diving saves that rolled Mannier as she attempted to score off of dribble penetration.

Mendoza had the daunting task of trying to stop Mannier in the midfield and was very successful at doing so. The defense of Coffey, Taylor Thompson, Morgan Robinson and Kaitlyn Novinger was great. The Falcons had very few chances at penetrating the Arrows in the first half. For the half Tecumseh had 83 intercepts, with only 29 loss of possession plays. They also won 11 of 16 50/50 balls. Coach Jim Paxton was very pleased with the teams's efforts but stressed to them the need not to overrun the ball and to keep working hard at containing the forward advances of the Falcons.

The second half saw few shots again for either team although the Falcons had a third shot hit the goal post and also enjoyed three corner kick and two direct kick situations outside of the 18 yard line that were handled by the Arrow defense. As the game was winding down it appeared that Tecumseh was doing all that it could to protect a tie as they kept clearing the ball out of bounds on the left side that is until Michele Milligan played a

long ball forward on the left that allowed Casey Cope to break into space and take the ball all the way down to the goal with two defenders in close pursuit and then was fouled as she prepared to launch a shot with time running out. Although Cope wanted to take penalty kick attempt Coach Paxton called on Coffey as she has shown good form on many of her kicks this season. Coffey then stepped up and made the biggest shot of her young career as she sank the ball in the left corner past a diving Grieser for the 1-0 win.

The Arrows look for the return of Jessica Boggs to the line-up on Wednesday as they face Urbana in a 7:15 start at Spitzer Stadium.

-Reserves

The Lady Arrow JV Soccer Team lost a very close game by a 2-1 margin to the Graham Lady Falcon JV to even their record at 4-4 on the season. Sarah Collins scored the lone goal for the Arrows off of a breakaway from two great long passes from Taylor Henry to Chrissy Cantrell and onto Collins. Alexa Gallo continues to play well in the goal and had 4 saves.