

Lady Arrows Win 4th Game

By Tom Minutolo
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-Casstown

The Tecumseh Lady Arrow Soccer Team battled for the full forty minutes and took a 5-4 hard fought win over the Miami East Lady Vikings on Saturday. The Vikings came into the contest with a deceiving 0-4 record until further inspection revealed that they had played some of North Dayton's best competition in the way of Troy, Tipp City, and Northwestern. The Arrows were feeling pretty good about their recent lopsided wins over Ben Logan, Yellow Springs and Indian Lake and were looking to add to that success.

The game started out badly for Tecumseh as the Vikings proved to be a very physical and very talented team. They dominated possession throughout the first half and seemed to play with a greater sense of urgency. The Vikings scored first at 31:02 as Sam Wagner sank a hard shot from the left side past a diving Kellie Gruber for the early 1-0 lead. The Arrows quickly returned the favor just 2 minutes later as Allison Denton sent a long thru pass to Jessica Boggs who in turn sent a nice cross from the right side to an oncoming Casey Cope to tie the game at 1-1.

At that point the war was on as both teams battled back and forth in the hot afternoon sun. The Vikings continued their unrelenting pressure till Stacy Barlage broke thru at 19:02 for a 2-1 Viking lead. That lead was again short lived however as Jessica Boggs finished a long pass from Guadalupe Mendoza at 16:44 for a 2-2 tie.

Again the Vikings launched another barrage against the Arrows as Barlage sank a shot from 12 yards out on the left for a 3-2 Miami East lead at 14:40. The Arrows once again responded as Boggs displayed more of her great passing skills on another cross from the right side that Guadalupe Mendoza finished for a 3-3 halftime score.

For the half the Vikings outshot the Arrows 13-12 and even though the Arrows did not win many 50/50 balls out of the air they managed to win 15 of 22 second balls and had 62 intercepts. Possession was again a problem as they had 32 loss of possession plays. Coach Jim Paxton was not happy with their efforts thus far and was especially disappointed that the team had let themselves be out played physically. He was also concerned by the play of the defense and encouraged them to step up and be more aggressive. He also demanded more out of the midfield in both coming back to mark on defense and then push up to support the offense.

The second half saw considerable improvement in the Arrow defense. The Arrows won much of the possession in the midfield early and sophomore Alysha Benson made several runs in support of the forwards which paid dividends at 21:45 as she tapped in a great cross from Casey Cope for Tecumseh's first lead at 4-3. At

that point the intensity picked up again as the Vikings sent many long passes forward that were easily disposed of by the Arrow freshman sweeper, Jaela Coffey. That pattern held up until a misplayed ball headed back in the middle slipped pass Coffey and onto Anna Demmitt for the Vikings who raced to the goal and sank a shot at 11:28 for a 4-4 game.

Once again the Arrows dug deep and found the energy to surge ahead as Benson took a short pass from Boggs for her third assist of the day and finished at 7:51 for the final 5-4 margin.

Kellie Gruber had 10 saves in the goal for the Arrows who improve to 4-1 on the season. The Arrows will take an extra day of rest and begin to prepare for another battle on Wednesday at Spitzer Stadium vs Greenon at 7:15pm

-Reserves

The Lady Arrow Reserve team won back to back games on the road to improve their record to 3-1 on the season. Last Wednesday they traveled to Springfield Catholic and came away with a 4-2 win in a game that saw great defense from Caitlin Lobl, Taylor Cyphers , and Shelby Gillespie as well as goals by Sarah Collins, Kim Studebaker, Chrissy Cantrell, and Courtney Bearender. Kaleigh Leggett and Kim Studebaker had assists as well. Alexa Gallo had 5 saves for the Arrows

The Reserves followed that success with a 1-0 win as Chrissy Cantrell scored the lone goal unassisted early in the second half and the Arrows held on till the bitter end in another great defensive game against the Miami East Lady Viking JV on Saturday.