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For the Sun

By Tom Minutolo

- Road Loss-

The Tecumseh Lady Arrow Soccer Team stumbled out of the gate on Wednesday in their first game of the season against the Greenon Lady Knights by a score of 8-0.

The Lady Knights were out to prove that their 18-1-1 season in 2007 was no fluke and they did not disappoint their hometown fans. They are currently ranked third in the recent MVSSCA coach's poll and looked like a top contender.

It was a very fast and physical game from the start and Leann Shaffer demonstrated her superior speed and skills early as she scored the first of her three goals at 37:34. She followed again at 17:57 as the Arrows spent the first half struggling with speed of play and possession .

As the Arrows were working hard to contain Shaffer, Lindsay Henderson broke through at 12:08. Shawnee transfer, Cassee Stuckey ,scored two quick goals at 4:01 and 3:35 for a 5-0 halftime lead.

For the half the Knights outshot the Arrows 16-3 with the best attempt for the Arrows coming from a breakaway shot by Rose Minutolo that struck the left goal post with 2 minutes remaining. Coach Jim Paxton was most concerned about the lack of communication on the part of his players and their inability to match the aggressiveness of their opponent.

In the second half the Arrows played a much more physical game and held their own until Elise Masquelier scored at 32:54. That seemed to re-energize the Knights as Kasey Matthews found the net from 40 yards out at 30:13. Shaffer followed at 19:25 finishing the scoring for Greenon. The battle raged on however and with arms, legs and a fair amount of fur flying the game ended with 14:45 left as Arrow defender , Kelly Karjala ,sustained an injury requiring the attention of paramedics. Fortunately her injuries are not serious and she should be able to help man the defense in the near future.

Bright spots for the Arrows were the play of freshman Alysha Benson and Jessica Boggs. They performed well under heavy duress. Courtney Smithart made several nice stops in the goal although her goals against average took a heavy hit.

The Arrows look to avenge this loss and get onto the winning track on Saturday in a non-league contest at home against Miami East.