

Boys soccer: Falcons get back on track



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Thursday, 24 September 2009 14:08

The persistence the Joel Barlow High boys soccer team displayed in the first half of its game against Immaculate finally paid off in the second.

Right from the start the Falcons controlled the game, coming up with scoring opportunities. They did not actually break through until later, racking up the goals on Monday, Sept. 21, for their first win of the season.

Although Barlow dominated early, all four of its goals came in the second half. Senior forward Will Kiriazidis turned in an outstanding performance for Barlow with three goals, two on mid-range shots after maneuvering himself into open position and a third on a header.

Senior defenseman Chris Ferullo also scored for Barlow when he connected on a rebounded shot while charging toward the goal. Assists went to Jake Soodek and Sean Basak-Smith (two).

The Barlow midfield, led by Brian Kraekel, Jake Soodek, Sean Sullivan and Basak-Smith, contributed to the win by thoroughly controlling possession throughout the game. Strong defensive performances came courtesy of Zack Frank, Ryan Schwaeber and goalie Anthony Caruso.

The win marked a resurgence of sorts after Barlow's first week of the season. In what might have been a first for the program, the Falcons dropped their first two games, both by 2-1 scores.

Opening the season last Tuesday, Sept. 15, against Kolbe-Cathedral, Barlow's only score came on a header by Ferullo off a Dan Goldman corner kick. The loss was particularly disappointing for Barlow, given the numerous scoring opportunities it had throughout the game and a Kolbe score in the first minute of the game that resulted from an errant bounce into the goal.

Barlow's second game against New Milford three days later was another close 2-1 contest. New Milford took the lead in the first half, 1-0, on a long range shot about 25 yards out.

The Falcons evened the score at about 20 minutes into the second half when Dan Goldman shook a defender and put in a left-footed shot from 10 yards out. New Milford then went ahead for good, 2-1, on an improbable 40-yard shot that went in just below the crossbar. A number of key defensive saves from Ferullo, Frank and goalie Caruso kept Barlow in the game, but it was not to be.

Barlow, now 1-2, visits Brookfield today (Thursday) and is at Oxford on Tuesday.

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