

Boys soccer: Falcons return to form



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This week marked a return to "Barlow soccer" for the Joel Barlow High boys soccer team, who have had a rough start to the season.

Visiting Oxford on Tuesday, the Falcons were firing on all pistons in a 7-0 win. Both the offense and defense displayed the type of talent that helped Barlow outplay opponents in the pre-season, prompting coach Paul Winstanley to remark that the team is one of the best skilled he has seen in years.

But the Falcons have had their problems. The Oxford win comes on the heels of an unexpected loss to Brookfield last Thursday, 5-1, and puts the Falcons at 2-3 for the season, with another 11 regular season games to play.

Barlow's win against Oxford was led by senior forward Dan Goldman, who had three goals. He also had two assists to help fellow strikers Will Kiriazidis and Jeff Cohen, who fielded both passes on the run and out-finessed the goalie with timed shots.

The Falcons' first score was from Chris Ferullo, unassisted, on a charge toward the middle of the goal from his usual backfield position. The seventh goal was by Phillip King on a rebound of a Varyk Kutnick strike. The assists to Goldman were from Ryan Schwaeber, from all the way in the backfield, and Jake Soodek, who also controlled the play at midfield for the entire game.

The defense also did its job in holding Oxford to very few scoring opportunities, which were negated by saves from goalie Anthony Caruso, who unofficially had a total of 10. Key defensive stoppages were also made throughout the game by Ferullo, Zack Frank, Schwaeber and Sean Sullivan. The defense also helped advance Barlow's ball movement and possession style of play with a skilled passing game.

The Falcons will look to even their season record with a win against Stratford this Saturday night at home starting at 7. They visit Pomperaug on Monday for another 7 p.m. game.

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