

Boys soccer: Falcons deliver Masuk first loss



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Taking one opponent in particular down a notch last week proved that the Joel Barlow High boys soccer team is among the power teams of the South-West Conference.

The Falcons outplayed undefeated Masuk at home on Thursday, Oct. 8. Although trailing late in the first half, they did not give up and emerged with a 3-1 come-from-behind win.

While out-possessing Masuk in the early stages of the game, Barlow went down 1-0 with a left-footed shot by a Masuk striker about 20 yards out on the left side of the field.

But Barlow's perseverance prevailed. With 17 minutes left in the first half, Jake Soodek crossed a ball to Sean Sullivan, who lobbed a pass into the middle of play, right in front of goal. Will Kiriazidis was there to give a chest pass to Chris Ferullo, who finished the play with the goal. The half ended at 1-1.

Three minutes into the second half, Barlow struck again when Jeff Cohen maneuvered the ball down the middle of the field off a pass from midfield and fired in a 20-yard shot. At the 20-minute mark, Barlow made it 3-1 when Dan Goldman took the ball down the right wing and squib-kicked it to an open Kiriazidis, who put the ball in goal as the goalie came out to try to stop the shot.

The enigmatic Falcons followed this win, however, with a 1-1 tie Saturday against a seemingly lesser Bethel team. The Falcons scored first in the first half on a header from Sullivan, which came off a pass from Soodek. But Bethel came back to even the score by the end of the half.

While the Falcons thoroughly dominated the Bethel squad, in terms of time of possession and serious scoring opportunities, they could not muster another goal and had to settle for the tie.

This past Tuesday night's game at home against Notre Dame was a scoring festival for the Falcons as they came away with a 10-2 victory. Goals came from Cohen (two), Dan Goldman (two), Kirazidis (two), Alex Schettino (two), Matt Giamportone and Soodek.

The Falcons, now 5-3-2 overall, visit Newtown today (Thursday) at 7 p.m., followed by a Saturday game at home against Woodstock Academy at 1:30. They visit Bunnell on Tuesday.

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