



Kraekel leads Barlow boys past St. Joseph in soccer

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REDDING -- The longer the game remained scoreless, the more uncomfortable it became for Barlow and coach Paul Winstanley.

Fortunately for the Falcons, William Kraekel stepped up with a goal early in the second half and the fifth-seeded Falcons put away pesky St. Joseph 4-0 in Tuesday's first round of the Class M boys soccer tournament.

The Falcons (13-4-2) advance to a second round game Thursday. The Cadets, seeded 28th, end their season at 5-9-3. Kraekel scored two goals while Daniel Goldman had a goal and an assist to pace Barlow.

"It always scares you when you let a team hang around," Winstanley said afterward. "It doesn't make a difference who you're playing. You let them hang around long enough, they start to believe they can win it."

That's precisely what St. Joseph coach Steve Waizenegger tried to do, and after a scoreless first half he felt his team might have a chance at an upset.

"At halftime, it was 0-0, and we were hoping for a lucky bounce or a break and maybe we would have a chance," Waizenegger said. "They were better than us. That's the story. They're a good team, they're well-coached, they're aggressive, and I look for them to go far in this tournament."

Barlow played most of the first half in the St. Joseph end, had a 3-1 edge in corner kicks and a 9-1 advantage in shots on goal. The Falcons did not have any goals, however, as St. Joseph goalkeeper Paul Kuczo (nine saves) and the Cadets kept Barlow off the board.

Kraekel got the go-ahead goal in the 45th minute, converting a pass from Jake Soodek. Kraekel scored from close range, as it appeared the St. Joseph defenders momentarily hesitated, believing Kraekel may have been offsides.

"The ball just fell to me and I was going to go for it," Kraekel said. "I wasn't completely sure if I was offsides or not."

Waizenegger complained vehemently, but didn't believe it affected the outcome.

"The referee blew that call," Waizenegger said. "The other three goals were all good goals. They deserved to win. But on that first goal, everybody thought the referee made a mistake."

Kraekel's score seemed to settle the Falcons, who broke the game open with three goals within a 10-minute span late in the game. Jeffrey Cohen scored in the 64th minute after a nice passing combination with Sean Sullivan and Goldman, and Kraekel scored in the 73rd minute after beating Kuczo on a breakaway set up by Cohen and Sullivan. Goldman scored the final goal in the 74th minute.

"We were getting opportunities in the first half, but after that goal we were a little more relaxed," Kraekel said. "We were possessing the ball and getting opportunities, it was just a matter of capitalizing."

Barlow's struggle early in the game may have been partially attributable to a carryover from a 4-0 setback to Brookfield in the semifinals of the SWC

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tournament. Winstanley believes his team could make an extended tournament run, but needs to raise its intensity.

"I think we are capable of being a handful for any team in the state," Winstanley said. "On any given day, we can be a difficult team for anybody. I just don't always know which team will show up."

ST. JOSEPH 0 0--0

BARLOW 0 4--4

Goals: B--William Kraekel 2, Jeffrey Cohen, Daniel Goldman. Assists: B--Sean Sullivan 2, Jake Soodek, Goldman, Cohen. Goalies: SJ--Paul Kuczo (9 saves); B--Anthony Caruso (5).

Records: Barlow 13-4-2, St. Joseph 5-9-3

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