



Brookfield downs Barlow 5-1

Bobcats' scoring burst buries Barlow

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BROOKFIELD -- After suffering two disappointing losses to begin the season, the potent offense of the Brookfield High soccer team appears to have re-emerged.

Led by AJ Stueck's hat trick, the Bobcats scored five goals in an 18-minute span to close out the first half and begin the second, defeating Joel Barlow 5-1 Thursday night.

Brookfield lost to Newtown 2-1 in its first game of the season and 2-0 to Masuk last Friday, but has since shut out Weston 4-0, and now improves to 2-2 with their handling of a very talented Joel Barlow team.

"We needed to mature," said Brookfield coach Jared Sheikh. "Certainly the losses are part of the learning process. These wins are proof that we have learned."

Added Stueck, "We came into the season with very high expectations; we're on the rebound now. Those losses were definitely eye openers."

For the first 30 minutes against Joel Barlow neither team had many scoring chances. Brookfield was aggressive after loose balls but

wasn't able to convert. On the other side the Falcons' opportunities were more threatening, but they had fewer of them, and Brookfield goalie Matt Bonn was always in good position.

Then with 8:07 left in the half, the Bobcats broke through. Brookfield's Colin Burke won a battle for a loose ball in the Joel Barlow end, found Stueck with a pass, and after creating just enough separation with the Falcon defender, fired a shot just inside the nearside post.

"I felt the ball was ping ponging around at the beginning, and we were fortunate enough to have it settle on the foot of the right player at the right time," said Sheikh.

A little more than a minute later, Stueck got a pass from Colin Burke in a similar position to his first goal, weaved around the defender and scored to put Brookfield up 2-0.

"At times he's entirely indefensible," said Sheikh. "He's one of the few players that brings the team comfort. When the ball's on his foot, you know it's going to stay with the team."

With 4:38 left in the half, Brookfield's Brian Grissel tipped a loose ball up to Burke, just out of the reach of the Barlow goalie, and Burke easily kicked it into the open net.

Luke Niarhos put Brookfield up 4-0 about six minutes into the second half, and Stueck scored his third a few minutes later.

Joel Barlow's lone goal came with 18:23 left in

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the game on a shot from Daniel Goldman.

"We've had this issue all year -- we're not mentally intense," said Joel Barlow coach Paul Winstanley. "We're not committed mentally. We have great athletes, a lot of speed, but we're not cohesive at this time."

In addition to Bonn, the Bobcats got a strong defensive performance from Niarhos, Chris Ackell, and Nick Demo.

"The defense did great work, and Matt was fantastic," said Stueck.

JOEL BARLOW 0 1 -- 3

BROOKFIELD 3 2 -- 5

Records: Joel Barlow 1-3, Brookfield 2-2.

Goals: B--AJ Stueck 3, Colin Burke, Eric McKean; JB--Daniel Goldman . Assists: B--Luke Niarhos 2, Brian Grisell, Rocco D'Archangelo, Colin Burke; JB--William Kiriazidis. Goalies: B--Matt Bonn (4 saves); JB--Anthony Caruso (6). Shots: B--11; JB--5.

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