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Barlow gets back on track

by JESSE FRANK

A strong three-game winning streak with victories over Bunnell, Pomperaug and Notre Dame of Fairfield was just what the Joel Barlow High boys soccer team needed after previous lackluster performances against Immaculate and Brookfield.

The Falcons took the field on Tuesday, Oct. 9, needing a statement game, and that is exactly what they got with a 3-0 shellacking of Bunnell.

Barlow showed energy and a burning desire to win that carried over the second half of the Immaculate game the previous week. Juniors Mike Flynn and Drew Crannell continued their fine play, and senior Dylan Stone engineered multiple runs up and down the field.

On Saturday, Barlow took the field against a tricky Pomperaug team. The emotion of Senior Night initially took its toll as the Panthers dominated time of possession early on. However, the Barlow defense held strong, keeping it 0-0 late into the first half.

Senior Aaron Kaufman electrified the crowd when he put a laser shot into the top corner of the goal with 17 minutes left in the first half to make it 1-0. However, Pomperaug answered back eight minutes later to tie the game at 1-1.

Just when it appeared the game would be tied going into halftime, Stone did what he has done on so many occasions this year — he put the team on his back and scored with four minutes to go in the first half.

Barlow took the momentum from Stone's goal into the second half. Scott St. Cyr continued his All-American bid with a goal to make it 3-1 with 28 minutes remaining in the game.

From this moment on, the game seemed to be in hand for the Falcons. Freshman Sean Basak-Smith added a goal to make the final 4-1.

On Monday the Falcons took on the Notre Dame Lancers in a lopsided match, playing almost flawless soccer to win 8-0. Stone and St. Cyr continued to play well as they each contributed a goal.

"I had some injuries in the beginning of the year that were holding me back, but now my leg is almost better," said Stone. "The team is starting the play better as one unit, and that has really allowed me to reach my full potential."

Barlow showed its depth as junior Alex Delmore and Basak-Smith each added a goal.

Barlow visits New Milford today (Thursday) and is at Masuk on Monday for the last game of the regular season.



Dylan Stone, right, goes up for a header during a Joel Barlow High boys varsity soccer game against Pomperaug on Saturday, Oct. 13. The Falcons won 4-1 on Senior Night and also beat Bunnell 3-0 four days earlier. — Scott Mullin photo

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