

Constant control

Rockets score two early goals, run past Ross

BY JEFF ARENZ
Sports writer

FREMONT — Oak Harbor controlled the ball, the tempo and, ultimately, the match during a 5-0 non-conference girls soccer win against Fremont Ross on Thursday at Alumni Fields.

Alex Weirich and Dayna Setzler broke a scoreless tie by scoring in the first 12 minutes of the match and Kayla Diefenthaler added a pair of goals for the Rockets, who improved to 4-1-0 overall.

"We slowed the game down by controlling the ball," Oak Harbor coach Renee Goldstein said. "That's one of our goals for the year. We want to slow it down, control the field and take our shots when they're the best."

The Rockets held a 25-6 edge in shots for the match.

Weirich's shot with 31:46 left before halftime slipped past Ross goalie Brandy Schmitt, who made 10 saves. Less than 4 minutes later, Setzler's line-drive from the top of the penalty box hit the back of the net as Oak Harbor took a 2-0 at the 28:04 mark.

It remained a two-goal advantage for the Rockets until Diefenthaler cashed in on a deflection off of Schmitt with 60 seconds left in the first half. Setzler's corner kick, one of 16 corner kicks by Oak Harbor, ignited the play.

"Oak Harbor controlled the ball by passing it effectively," Ross coach Otto Gonzalez said. "Our girls showed more speed by getting to the ball, but they need to be more aggressive in attacking it."

The Little Giants took three shots in each half. Their best scoring chance in the first half came with 17:58 left when Taylor Michael's direct kick from the left side of the goal box was stopped by Rockets' goalie Chelsey Kaman.

Kaman had five saves in the match.

"What we saw today is that Oak Harbor is playing more forward than our team," Gonzalez said. "In the first half, Oak Harbor had the ball on our side of the field for 20-25 minutes because they were pressuring us. It made us have to rethink our game plan."

It became 4-0 with 34:34 left when Kelly Bryant kicked in a



Fremont's Calea Harper and Oak Harbor's Jordan Glass battle for the ball during Thursday's match at Fremont's Alumni Fields. Oak Harbor won 5-0.

Jonathon Bird | News-Messenger

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cross pass from Rachel Hegemeier. A pass from Bryant set up Weirich on the first goal of the match.

Setzler's goal was unassisted, as well as Diefenthaler's first tally.

A pass from Wierich set up Diefenthaler, whose goal with 22:36 left completed the scoring.

Tera McDonald gave Ross a pair of scoring chances late in the second half. The first, with 15:58 left, happened after she stripped

the ball away from an Oak Harbor defender in the penalty box before taking a shot that Kaman stopped by coming out of the net.

With 4:48 remaining, McDonald drove the left baseline for another shot, but was denied again by Kaman.

The Rockets had a 16-3 edge in corner kicks, a 5-1 advantage in direct kicks and a 19-14 edge in throw-ins. The Little Giants were ahead 23-5 in goal kicks.

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Girls soccer

Fremont Ross earns fourth straight win

LIMA — Goals from Morgan Baer, Shelby Connors and Tera McDonald handed Fremont Ross a 3-1 win over Lima Senior during a Greater Buckeye Conference match Thursday.

Andra Snodgrass made eight saves to preserve the Little Giants' victory.

Fremont Ross, which is 5-5-0 overall and 3-1-0 in the GBC, after knocking off Sandusky 2-0 on Tuesday, Edison 1-0 on Saturday and Marion Harding 6-0 on Sept. 24.

McDonald scored twice on assists from Lizzy Ellenberger and Rachel Humberger as the Little Giants defeated Sandusky. McDonald tallied the only goal in Ross's win against Edison.

Rockets come away with win against Little Giants

BY KEVIN SHIELDS

News-Messenger correspondent

OAK HARBOR — It wasn't the effort Oak Harbor girls soccer coach Renee Goldstein was looking for, but she'll take the result.

The Rockets, not as sharp as usual, still managed to control most of the play and tempo in a 3-1 non-conference win against Fremont Ross on Thursday.

Kelly Bryant broke a 1-1 tie by scoring with 5 minutes left before halftime and Amber Burnett scored an unassisted goal to ice the match with 3:12 left in the game for the Rockets (12-1-1).

"We played really slow and didn't play as aggressive as we normally do," Goldstein said. "We also didn't control the ball as

good as we usually do, but thankfully we just had enough balls go in the net."

Oak Harbor held a 33-6 edge in shots for the match, including a 17-3 difference in shots on goal.

Ross goalkeeper Andra Snodgrass made 13 saves for the Little Giants (5-6-1), who just couldn't generate enough offense or opportunities. Brandy Schmidt made a save for the Little Giants as well, subbing in during the final minutes of the first half.

"Andra, like many of our girls, is getting better all the time," Ross coach Otto Gonzalez said. "She's done a wonderful job for us, but we need to work harder in order to get better results in the sectional tournament.

"We didn't show all the potential we have and it wasn't the team I've seen the last six games."

Katie Perry's goal just 4:29 into the match gave Oak Harbor an early 1-0 edge.

Ross countered just over 9 minutes later when Morgan Bauer's kick from the left side of the penalty box soared over Rockets goalie Chelsey Kaman's head and into the net to tie the game at 1-1 at the 26:21 mark. Picking up an assist on the play was Alexandra Miller, who stole the ball from Oak Harbor's defender and fired it up to a charging Bauer.

The match remained tied until Bryant cashed in a pass from

Sara Lipstraw on the left side of the goal box with 5:24 left in the first half.

Oak Harbor out-shot Ross 17-3 in the first half with a 7-2 advantage in shots on goal. Kaman finished with three saves for the Rockets.

"Our defense has just been amazing all year," Goldstein said. "They're fast, they're smart and they know how to play very, very well. Coming into this game our goals-against average on the year was 0.86, but we still let one in and hopefully we won't let too many more in come tournament time."

Burnett completed the scoring

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for the Rockets with just over 3 minutes to play, pushing the lead to two.

Oak Harbor's strong defense held Ross in check as the Little Giants had just one shot on net in the second half to 10 for the Rockets.

"There definitely were opportunities for us that we didn't capitalize on," Goldstein said. "We had several kicks go off the crossbar and they (Ross) played us really down in the box. Ross held us to tougher shots and we had several go wide, but as a coach you'd rather see them go wide than high because at least you know they're shooting for corners."

Goldstein said she and the Rockets were fortunate to come away with a win considering Ross was allowed to hang around within striking distance for almost the entire match.

On the other side, Coach Gonzalez said his girls just weren't keeping up the same energy level.

"We didn't adjust to the circumstances of the game very well," he said. "Our level of play wasn't where it was in the first half and we couldn't generate any opportunities."

Girls Soccer

■ **Certificate Winners:** Thalia Perez, Jurnee Carter, Brandy Schmidt.

■ **First Year Award:** Ali Hoch, Taylor Michael.

■ **Second Year Award:** Andra Snodgrass, Bernadetta Rusher.

■ **Third Year Award:** Shelby Connors, Rachel Humberger, Alexandra Miller, Jennifer Ohms, Morgan Bauer, Tera McDonald, Alexandria Rojas, Vanessa Rojas.

■ **Fourth Year Award:** Elizabeth Ellenberger

■ **GBC All Academic:** Elizabeth Ellenberger, Jennifer Ohms, Alexandra Miller.

■ **Honorable Mention:** Elizabeth Ellenberger, Tera McDonald.

■ **Second Team GBC:** Morgan Bauer.

■ **First Team GBC:** Alexandra Rojas.

■ **Rookie of the Year:** Brandy Schmidt.

■ **Most Goals:** Tera McDonald.

■ **Most Saves:** Andra Snodgrass.

■ **Most Improved:** Ali Hoch, Tera McDonald, Taylor Michael, Alexandra Miller, Jennifer Ohms, Vanessa Jojas, Bernadetta Rusher, Andra Snodgrass.

■ **Most Valuable Player:** Alexandra Rojas, Elizabeth Ellenberger.