

Panthers claw back to win 2-1 against Bulldogs

By Natalie Pearson

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Coming back from a 1-0 deficit, the High Point Panthers overwhelmed the UNC Asheville Bulldogs 2-1 in a frantic match last Saturday.

The defeat was especially frustrating for Head Coach Steve Cornish after the Bulldogs' confident 1-0 win over East Tennessee State University earlier in the week.

"We just didn't play well," he said. "Our weaknesses matched up against their strengths."

The Bulldogs stayed in the match when UNCA goalkeeper Lassi Hurskainen saved several early shots from the Panthers.

"Lassi played very well, making an outstanding save minutes in," said Matt Kern, assistant coach for the Bulldogs. "He made saves of the highest quality and kept us in the game because I think the fans knew it (the score) could be more."

Although freshman midfielder David Parra worked the right wing and sent multiple crosses into the box, fre-



Steve Cornish



Ian Hayes - Staff Photographer

Bryan Bartels fights off a High Point defender early in the first half.

quent fumbles in front of Asheville's goal left sophomore forward Bryan George exasperated, flailing his arms in frustration.

"We just didn't work together as an offensive unit today," George said. "We picked it up in the second half, but not to the standards we've been playing at."

Even though High Point outshot

Asheville 13-1, it was the Bulldogs who came through with the lead at halftime, thanks to Parra's goal in the 44th minute.

Using an assist from sophomore forward Alex Koslick, Parra cut through the defense just outside the box and created just enough space to boot the ball straight past the Panther's goalkeeper, sinking it into the back of

the net.

The goal was also Parra's first of his collegiate career.

"I'm very happy to get my first goal of my career," he said. "I just took the defender, took the ball and then finished."

Although UNCA finished the first half in charge, the Panthers were quick to retaliate, coming into the second half with an aggressive offense and scoring the equalizer just eight minutes in.

After being awarded a free kick just outside the 18-yard line, High Point's Matt Tuttle put the ball to the side of the Bulldogs' wall and found the right side netting, slipping it past Hurskainen, who couldn't see through the jumble of players.

"It was a good free kick," said sophomore midfielder Jake Hagedorn. "They got the equalizer and then just kept possession."

The Bulldogs responded by changing formation, but couldn't stop the Panthers, who scored the game winner in the 72nd minute when Fejiro Okiomah snuck the ball in to the left side of the goal, finalizing the score at 2-1.

"In the second half we changed formation and stopped what they were

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VMI hands women's soccer second straight conference loss

By Dan Weller

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The UNC Asheville women's soccer team lost their concentration as they fell victim to an early attack by Virginia Military Institute and could not recover in a 2-0 loss.

"Unfortunately, VMI came out harder than us and it showed when they scored a goal right from the start," said

senior midfielder McKenna Stockhausen. "It shows how such a short mental lapse can result in something as detrimental as a loss. We dominated the attack later in the game, but just couldn't put one away."

The Keydets (4-6, 2-0) struck early, scoring the first goal of the game 59 seconds in. The early goal created a deficit the Bulldogs (3-5-1, 0-2) would not overcome.

"We were scored on early and as

a result had to play catch-up for the duration of the game," Head Coach Michele Cornish said. "We pushed players forward late in the game in the hope of tying the game up, and ended up getting scored on a second time. When down a goal, it is a risk to get that tying goal."

After a slow first half, the Bulldogs started the second half by spraying the VMI goalkeeper Heidi Beemer with 11 shots, the most in a half this year.

"We wanted to get a goal so badly that we weren't playing smart soccer, but more frantic," Stockhausen said. "We needed to slow down and do the simple things well and the game would have gone the way we wanted it to."

Cornish offered a more straightforward explanation to the shutout.

"We simply couldn't score," she said.

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