

Disappointing Start for Men's Soccer

by Melissa Collins

Belmont Abbey

The men opened their home season with a game on September 6 against Belmont Abbey. The early action took place in the SA defensive zone, putting a fast test on Goal Keeper Mark Wagner. His save at 40:35 was enough to send the offense into gear, ending with a shot by David Hartman on goal. While the pressure remained equal on both sides of the ball, Belmont scored the game's first goal at 36:05.

Neil Fillmore and Vinny Eamma showed good defensive skills to prevent any more scoring under strong Belmont pressure. Dave Marcionette made a good move down the line to move the SA offense down the field. Wagner finished the half with two very nice saves.

The second half showed the continuing

strength of communication from veterans Eamma, Dan Pagnotta, Denis Hilton, and Tom Cimalore. The result was a goal at 21:46 by Marcionette. Frank Balentine, Kevin Vemardo and Warren Roca also made strong contributions to the effort with shots on goal and steals.

Unfortunately, with 4:27 left to play, the Belmont squad scored a final goal making the score 2-1 in its favor.

Pfeiffer

September 9 saw the showdown between the Knights and Pfeiffer. There was immediate pressure by the Knights as Hartman and Roca forced the ball downfield. The resulting corner kick was sent out down field. With tight officiating, the game became a seesaw battle. Roca, Hilton, and Balentine each contributed with defensive strength to try to get things started. Eamma and Marcionette combined on a shot on goal which resulted in a beautiful save by the Pfeiffer keeper.

However, the pressure would not go away, and this time it was a Marcionette pass to Mark Clemente that resulted in a goal.

Unfortunately, this momentum starter did not last long. A misdirected S.A. pass ended up scoring a Pfeiffer goal a mere twenty seconds later. With some strong defensive moves by Fillmore, Hilton and Wagner, the game remained tied at the half. The second half started with almost immediate pressure from Pfeiffer with a Wagner save at 40:35. Jon Hendrickson made a nice steal and used nice footwork to get a pass to Hartman. Hartman came up just short on a one-on-one with the keeper. He then had to show his speed while running down an errant pass and almost saved it. Wagner got his work in goal, making a diving and deflecting save and a couple of more traditional saves before allowing a goal at 21:54. Fillmore, Roca and Marcionette made several strong plays in the effort.

Unfortunately, the closest the Knights came to scoring again was on a beautifully executed run to the goal. They appeared to score but a delayed penalty call resulted in a negating of the score and a penalty kick which sailed high. It was another disappointing 2-1 loss.

Longwood

Longwood arrived for a face off on September 13. The Knights got off to a fast start, with a break by Marcionette. He sent a pass toward Harmen which was just missed. The Knights' intensity was so great that Hendrickson came right out of his shoe while handling the ball. He managed to get a nice pass off before replacing his shoe. Eamma, Cimalore, and Hilton showed strong defense along with a few other ball handling skills to try to keep the team's momentum going. Josh Smith made a beautiful pass to Marcionette, but the drive was cut short by a swarming Longwood defense. Jorge Villabos got into the action with great footwork and a

wonderful pass to Hartman on an offensive push down field. Wagner got some defensive help from Hilton and Jason Diehl to thwart many of the Longwood offensive thrusts.

Unfortunately, the pressure broke the defense and a goal was scored before the half. Hilton began the second half with a great run. He ended up being tripped by a Longwood player, resulting in a Roca penalty kick which went high off a keeper deflection. The resulting corner kick by Hartman was blocked. Wagner received some help from Cimalore on a swarming drive to prevent a goal.

Unfortunately, the swarm returned two more times with success. The Knights did manage to put a drive together which culminated in a Balentine assisted Hartman goal. The effort was just not enough as the Knights lost 3-1. While their record shows them without a victory, the Knights have kept victory in sight consistently.

Early Season Difficult

by Melissa Collins

The Lady Knights soccer team has already endured a season's worth of difficulties.

With a possibility of having to forfeit the season due to a lack of players, the women have to be thankful to even get to play. In addition, the team had to adjust to a new coach. These factors combined have made the early going very difficult.

Belmont Abbey

On September 10, the Lady Knights faced off against Belmont Abbey. Goal keeper Tori Rutherford showed her skill early with a beautiful save at 39:05. That was a good start which was followed up by a team run which ended with a shot on goal by Chidimma Okirike. Emily Windham made a nice pass to Heather Hayden to remove the ball from the S.A. defensive zone. A few minutes later, Hayden would join Mary-Kathleen Daley and

Farah Allen to form a wall on a penalty kick to keep the Belmont scoring opportunities to a minimum. Jill Kappus, Nicola Ager, and Alyssa Gann added defensive help to the effort and were successful. Rutherford made it clear that she was the field commander and had a good sense of the field while trying to build a line of communication for this relatively new unit. Unfortunately, the Belmont Abbey squad was leading 2-0 at the end of the first half.

Their second goal came after a beautiful but dangerous save by Rutherford which involved a hard collision. She had come up hobbled but continued to play with a lot of heart. Lorien Chilton and Shelly Kleinschmidt began the second half with a strongly aggressive defense. The offense was then ignited and allowed for a penalty kick to be set up. Daley lined up the shot so that it went straight through the defensive wall and into the goal. Unfortunately,

about six playing minutes later the Belmont Abbey squad hit the goal again. The team played strongly but could not overcome the opponent. The final score was 3-1.

Longwood College

Three days later, the Lady Knights faced off against Longwood College.

The challenges began early when Longwood scored a goal. Despite strong defense, including a steal by Sammy McGee, the Lady Knights had a 3-0 half-time deficit staring them in the face. The deficit became greater when Hayden was injured early in the second half. She walked off under her own power and returned to the action quickly.

Gann was injured several minutes later. Casey Moore made an impression with her strong play. The offense made several strong pushes down the field. Daley split the wall on a penalty kick but the keeper deflected it. After a

Kleinschmidt run, the Daley feat repeated itself. Kappus made several great defensive plays before she, too, was injured and forced to leave the game. Despite the valiant team effort, the Longwood squad was victorious in a 5-0 game.

Hopefully, as the squad has more time together, they will be able to show what they are truly capable of.

**The next
Women's Soccer
game at home
will be October
7 vs. Pfeiffer.**