

Sports

Men's Soccer Team Defeats Greensboro To Win Conference Championship

by Tara Cashwell



Monarch Jimmy Maher drives downfield as teammates Charlie Murias and Stefan Stefanson look on.

The game promised to be an exciting one. Methodist was playing Greensboro to determine the Conference Championship and earn the winner an automatic bid in the NCAA tournament.

On Wednesday, Oct. 23, Methodist hosted Greensboro College in what was "the most important game of the year," according to Coach Alan Dawson. Dawson explained that Methodist's game plan was simple, to go at Greensboro from the blow of the first whistle, to put pressure on them, and to take control of the game early. The plan paid off. Five minutes into the game, Finbarr Clancy scored the first goal. From that moment on, Methodist dictated the pace of the game.

During the second half, a penalty kick resulted in a score by Chris Shaw and took victory out of Greensboro's reach. Patrick Gibney scored the third goal in the closing minutes of the game. Coach Dawson called that "the icing on the cake." Dawson also added that Lance Watkins played a great game as goal keeper and that the team overall gave a great performance.

After the game, a few Monarch players had their own feelings about the game. Patrick Gibney who had just come back from a long injury, scored the game's final goal and had this to say about the game. "It was a real nice return for me. I could not have asked for a more satisfying comeback." He then went on to explain the rivalry between the two teams. "They are our biggest rivals. We both hate each other so it's great when you stick them." Monarch Justin Cary said, "We were a bit nervous because we had to assure a position in the play-offs."

This has been a very successful year for the Monarchs. Currently they stand at 15-0-3, which is the first time in Methodist history that a team has gone unbeaten during their regular season. In the last two years, the Monarchs have posted a 10-0 conference record. They have also won 3 consecutive conference championships. This is their second consecutive trip to the NCAA tournament. Out of 260 teams in the nation, Methodist finds itself in the final 32.

Congratulations to the 1991-92 Men's Soccer team. The whole school is proud of you!



Monarch David Holmes makes the goalkeeper pay for this save, as teammate Fernando Martinez charges in.