

USA defeats Canada

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

SAN JOSE — The U.S. Women's Soccer team defeated its rival Canada 3-1 in front of a cheering crowd of thousands on Sunday at Avaya Stadium.

The Americans finish their calendar year with a 12-3-1 record.

Thursday, the North-South battle ended in a hard-fought 1-1 draw in Vancouver.

Santa Clara alumnus Julie Ertz headed in a Megan Rapinoe corner kick in the 11th minute to open the scoring for the U.S. women. Six minutes later, Canada tied the score when Nichelle Prince passed the ball to Jannine Beckie who evaded the

American defense to fire up one up the middle into the goal post.

The match was tied 1-1 as the ball raced up and down the field in multiple combinations as offense and defense parried shots with neither team gaining an edge.

A crowd of nearly 18,000 fans went wild when Christen Press passed the ball to Alex Morgan who kicked in a goal around the 57 minute mark to put the Americans back on top.

Canada wasn't ready to give up the goose, but it wasn't enough to beat back an American onslaught. Midfielder Carly Lloyd entered the game as a substitute and went onto score the home team's third goal around the



MILES LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

USA's Megan Rapinoe (red) shows this Canadian a thing or two about why American soccer is force to contend with.

80th minute. After the match that had Lloyd scoring her 98th career point, Lloyd talked with fans and signed autographs alongside team

captain Becky Sauerbrunn.

Both teams will turn their attention next year to qualifying for the 2019 World Cup.



PHOTOS BY VARICK TAYLOR

Edenton-John A. Holmes' Keimon Bailey (with ball) against Manteo during the second round of the 1AA state playoffs, football, Nov. 17 at John A. Holmes High School.

ACES

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back Thatcher Tillet, listed at 6-foot-3, 240 pounds, finding holes in the Aces' defense.

Hoggard had praise for Manteo, which is a rival to Edenton in the Albemarle Athletic Conference.

The Redskins provided a touch more resistance against the Aces on Friday than in their first meeting on Oct. 27, which was a 50-7 Edenton win.

"I think their kids played really well, especially early in the game," Hoggard said.

Manteo moved the ball to the Aces' 15-yard line, but on second down, a fade pass into the end zone was intercepted by Hill.

"The interception was big," Hoggard said. "It turned things around for us."

After the first drive hiccup, the Edenton offense went to its signature dive play to Bailey, who broke a 66-yard run to put the Aces inside the Manteo 20-yard line.

A few plays later, Dequant Spruill cashed in with a 1-yard touchdown run to give the Aces a 6-0 lead with 59 seconds remaining in the



Edenton-John A. Holmes' Nakevin Hill (with ball) returns an interception 44 yards for a touchdown against Manteo in the second round of the 1AA state playoffs, Nov. 17 at John A. Holmes High School.

quarter.

Early in the second quarter, Hill intercepted his second pass of the game as the defensive back settled under the pass, cut across the field, and with the help from a key block from Za-keem Brooks, returned the interception 44 yards down the Manteo sideline for a touchdown to up the Aces lead to 14-0.

"It means a lot," Hill said of his two interceptions. "I did it for my team."

Xavius Capehart also had a solid game as the senior

linebacker made a tackle in the backfield on Tillet on fourth and short to force a turnover on downs late in the second quarter.

Edenton added another 21 points to take a 35-0 lead at halftime.

Spruill, Bailey and Mit-jonta Stanley added scoring runs in the second frame.

Hill used his hands on offense as he reeled in a Stanley 28-yard pass late in the second quarter. The pass set up a Bailey 1-yard touchdown run to put Edenton up 35 points at intermission.

A Spruill 54-yard touchdown run on Edenton's first drive of the third quarter extended the Edenton lead to 42-0, which started a running clock.

Spruill, a senior, finished with 64 yards with three touchdowns, Bailey had 158 rushing yards with a touchdown and Stanley posted 42 rushing yards.

The future appears to be bright at the quarterback position for Manteo as sophomore Bryson Sawyer connected on a pair of long passes down the field when Edenton had some backups in the game in the fourth quarter.

Sawyer's first deep pass to Claveon Rice for 38-yards set up a 1-yard touchdown run by Sawyer to end the Edenton shutout bid.

In the final minutes of the game, Sawyer went deep and connected with a wide open Caz Wheeler for a 57-yard touchdown.

The Aces will host a third round state playoff game on the Friday after Thanksgiving for the first time since the 2014 season when Clinton visited Edenton in a 2A state playoff contest.

Malcolm Shields is sports editor for the Daily Advance.

SPORT

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United challenge. The company is among the U.S. national soccer programs' major sponsors.

An elderly couple, with snacks from one of the nearby food trucks, stood near us. The woman would occasionally lean back, so as to look at the back of my shirt. It was a personalized team jersey — part of my prize package — with my last name and my pick of numbers, 5 — for the number of humans in my family back in Edenton.

"Oh, do you want to see the back of my jersey?" I asked as the women tried a second time to lean back, bracing herself against the lightpole.

I explained how it was a personalized shirt.

"I didn't recognize that name. I thought it was Samantha Mewis' number," she said. (Actually, it's defender Kelley O'Hara's number.)

We went on to talk about our favorite players. To be honest I only knew Carli Lloyd, spokeswoman of the Care United challenge, Becky Sauerbrunn, the captain and Megan Rapinoe — mostly veteran players on the team.

"Oh, we're big fans of one of the younger players," she said. "It's our granddaughter, Lynn Williams, and we hope to get to see her play tonight."

Williams is a forward who plays for the North Carolina Courage, a professional women's soccer team based Cary. Williams is from Fresno, a little over 100 miles away from San Jose. But the couple was proud as we shared our knowledge of North Carolina and the Raleigh-Durham area.

I asked for Williams' number so my husband and I could cheer her on. As a professional player in North Carolina, cheering her on is easy, she's one of our own.

While we were on the field during the pre-game warm-ups, I saw No. 12 — Williams — practice with the other players. Maybe, she'll have a chance, I told myself as I got excited for her grandparents who were in the stands.

Eventually, after part of

my group was recognized on the field, we made it back to our seats. It was an open-air reserved box filled with catered goodies. The Cheerwine was replaced with RC Cola but I recognized the wings, chili and tacos. In a basket in the corner were bags of peanuts. Sure enough, they were Hampton Farms, processed by Jimbo's Jumbos here in Edenton. Home had found me in the stadium. Maybe California isn't that far removed from the East Coast as I had thought.

As the game opened, Williams was absent from the starting roster. But as my husband said, there's still time for her to get into the game.

So, we waited patiently, cheering on the U.S. women's team as they dominated Canada. During the previous game — one in which Williams saw significant playing time — the two teams tied, 1-1. This time, the U.S. looked strong and steady.

As we neared the 80-minute mark, I started to get a little sad for Williams' grandparents. Their granddaughter hadn't come in yet. Two-minutes later, the U.S. made some substitutions. In came veteran player Carli Lloyd. Shortly after her, came Williams.

"Oh, it's Lynn!!!" I exclaimed as my suite-mates looked up with me with a "why are you screaming" look on their faces. Her position was on the opposite side of the field from where I was, but I watched her play intently. She was fast and courageous, like her professional team's name, going between Canadian defenders and chasing the ball. To see her be able to celebrate on the field as the game wound down to a 3-1 victory, made me smile. I thought of how thrilled that couple I meet only a few hours earlier must be.

Besides Williams, Mewis, a forward, and defenders Abby Dahlkemper and Taylor Smith, who are all on the national team, play for the NC Courage.

There were about 18,000 people in that stadium, and somehow I meet two people with a link to North Carolina. Common bonds can be found anywhere, if you only take a chance to look for them.

SWIM

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first in the girls 50 meter freestyle with a time of 35.66.

Pasquotank's Tristan Dennis finished first in the boys 100 meter freestyle.

Christopher Praisler took first place for the Knights in the boys 100 meter backstroke.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Currituck 61, Ocracoke 28: The Lady Knights defeated the Lady Dolphins 61-28 at the Battle of the Beach tournament Friday.

Currituck (1-1) was led by Lauren Gerni, who finished

the game with 16 points.

Destiny Ferebee added 14 points, while Isis Saunders finished the game with 10 points for the Lady Knights.

Currituck returns to action Nov. 28 when they travel to Gates County.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Ocracoke 50, Currituck 48: The Knights fell in a closely-contested game to the Dolphins at the Battle of the Beach tournament Friday.

Liam Caswell led Ocracoke with 25 points in the game.

Currituck returns to action Nov. 28 with a road game against Gates County.

MASTER

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first job as a journalist was with the *Virginian-Pilot* — a large paper where many journalists aspire to work. Later, Riebel worked as sports editor at the *Daily Times* in Delaware County, Pa. Sports writers there still tell stories about Riebel.

Full circle, Riebel returned to the *Virginian-Pilot* as sports editor where this one-time copy boy supervised 32 writers who covered a multitude of prep and college sports. He led from the front by setting an example and doing the hard work that needed to be done to produce a quality sports page. That's not easy.

These days, Riebel's time is spent watching his 6-year-old grandson in Chesapeake. Riebel still maintains a residence in Edenton,

but if anyone is looking to buy his well-kept ranch style house on West Queen Street, maybe reach out to him.

Though Riebel is retired, the man is still very spry and can zip up and down the field almost as fast as Aces' Keimon Bailey charging up the middle. Riebel said he has no plans to get back into sports writing, however, I could tell he was enjoying himself immensely pacing the sidelines, talking to officials and watching Friday's game while writing page after page of notes filled with stats and key plays.

Friday before the Aces made this season's playoffs debut, Riebel shared with me the methods he uses to tally stats. That's a critical component to any sports story.

Prior to Riebel's tutorial, my Saturday mornings were madness as I tried to

compute hastily written formulas/notes into figures that I compared against the Aces' master statistician Brian Chappell so as to be perfectly accurate. Absolute time consuming madness.

Riebel's method relies on simple formulas that tally the plays, the yardage and more as the game progresses. Not going to lie — it's going to take some time to get used to like learning to drive a stick-shift before it becomes second nature.

Moreover, Riebel shared a special stat sheet with me that he developed from his decades long career in sports. Rosetta Stone moment. That's the stone Napoleon's troops found which deciphered Egyptian hieroglyphs for the first time in centuries.

Riebel has used this stat sheet to train many sports journalists who've used this

spreadsheet to file more complete stories while enduring deadline pressure.

Stats aside, there were other lessons that the master taught me. Learn the players' names and be able to recognize them as best as possible because rosters change and may be incomplete. Players' jersey numbers work in a pinch, but relying on these numbers may come back to burn you.

As any sports writer might say to a news writer, "it's one thing to misspell a politician's name or make a headline gaffe, but get play wrong, misidentify or misspell a player's name — God help you." That's because people still read the sports pages and it's one of the things that newspapers do right. By goofing up a name or play — better expect a phone call from a coach, a pissed off parent and grief from the boys in the press

box. There's a lot of pressure to get a sports story right.

Another lesson the master taught me was to talk with coaches, particularly from the visitor's side, so as to get updated rosters and learn which kids to watch.

Also, while working in the press box is nice, particularly in cold weather, it is better to be on the sidelines because you can see more and maybe talk to the team's statistician if you didn't see how many yards the ball moved or which player got squashed in the middle.

Riebel offered advice as to which plays matter more and why when writing a story. A couple of Aces' interceptions in the first half quickly changed the tone of Friday's game.

Major point — talk to the players after the game to write a better story. Maybe ask did the Aces' bye week

affect their performance against Manteo? Do the players feel ready to tackle Lakeside next Friday?

If it rains, maybe have a plastic bag handy with which to cover your clipboard so that you can keep your notes dry. Have an extra jacket handy in the car in case it gets colder than the forecast predicted. Gloves are good too.

There is much to learn and much to do to upgrade the *Chowan Herald's* sports section. Much like covering City Hall or the courts, sports writing is a specialized discipline that pays great attention to detail. Much respect and thanks goes to Riebel and all sports writers who work long hours to bring the community the stories and scores that are clipped out and put in scrap books.

Now all I have to do is get ready for basketball season.