

U14 Maroon Wave Girls battle Hunter

Abington-(ACU) October 24, 2009

On a cold, grey, drizzly morning the girls of the Maroon Wave gathered at the Abington Jr. High School fields to play township rival Hunter Soccer Club. 9am to be exact- a bit too early for a team better known for evening vampiress hours, than a cup of “coffee and newspaper” before game time.

The team was playing no Bob to their game. Defender Sierra “Bob” Krohnemann was on the I/R with Midfielder Maria Campion. The two sat together under an umbrella and did all they could to keep their teammates in high spirits.

Maura Gouak started out in the net and had full command of the game in front of her, there was not mistake about who was getting any ball that came anywhere near her. Every Hunter rush was met with a staunch midfield and unbending defense. The last part has been the hallmark of the Maroon Wave in 2009.

Neither team could make a serious challenge in the first half playing very even. Since many of the players on both squads play together on schools teams they didn't need a film study of their opponents. The rain started to come down at halftime and would continue on and off for most of the 2nd half.

Gouak moved out to Stopper for the second half, while Maddie Bavis took over in the net.

Both teams struggled trying to get the ball into the air on crosses or when clearing the 18 yd box. In the 58th minute of play Bavis crushed a punt up the right side to midfielder Veronica Asman who settled the ball and played quickly to a streaking Emily Rankin. Rankin sent a pinpoint pass to Anna Hallahan, who had the pedal to the floor, gathered in the pass, and stuck a shot at 23 yds. The Hunter GK couldn't quite handle the shot about 16 yds from the goal.

The ball bounced off the leaping GK's hands and carried over with Hallahan struggling to get around the GK for one more deft touch. The ball was just out of reach and a defender was able to step in and end the opportunity. This would prove to be the Maroon Wave's best opportunity.

In the 63rd minute with a light rain picking up again a goal kick came out low. The Hunter forward made just 2 touches, sending the ball into the upper right of the net for what proved to be the only goal of the game. The Wave would lose by 0-1 in what had been a very well played game.

As time wound down the perseverance of the team was still there as Rankin, Asman, Kelsey Travor and Caitlin Cushnir strung together some great work. Eventually getting the ball in their offensive 3rd, but no one could get a good shooting opportunity. A great game played in poor weather, a commendable effort by all. After the game the team still had enough energy for a spirited "Happy Birthday" song and team hug for Rankin.