

Maroon Wave open 2009 U14 Girls Season (Finally)

September, 2009

9.24.09

Abington, PA (ACU) On Thursday September 24, 2009 the Maroon Wave of AC United- the Under 14 girls (U14) opened their Inter county Soccer league campaign under the light of Roslyn Field. The season had been forestalled twice, once by rain, on opening day, and for a sportsmanship scheduling change.

The opponent, Upper Dublin was one that had been a great competitor in both Fall and Spring seasons for the 4 years that the Maroon Wave has been in existence, this game proved be more of the same- Well trained, well coached teams with great discipline and pride. AC United controlled the first 10 minutes of play and had a few offensive opportunities but UD stacked the box with their entire defensive line and midfield, limiting the shot selection for ACU.

Upper Dublin got on the scoreboard first by scoring from the left side of the field at the 20 minute mark. UD was also able to take advantage of an odd man rush and go up 2-0 at halftime.

Coaches McCartin and Rankin made some adjustments at halftime to spark the offense. In the second half the Maroon Wave washed into the UD defensive third continuously, with Emily Rankin ripping a left to right shot into the net at the 51 minute mark. UD went up 3-1 in the 60th minute off an errant clearing pass. True to their credo, the Maroon Wave did not give up, they never gave up. Even with Forward Anna Hallahan hobbling with a minute to play, she intercepted a pass and was taken down attempting a shot at 8 yards.

Sweeper Erin Flach calmly strode up the field and roofed the penalty kick to make it 3-2 but there was just not enough time to recover. UD won the game but it was stride for stride evenly played.

9.26.09

Norristown, PA (ACU) Saturday's are made for soccer. The AC United U14's arrived at Norristown High School to take on Jeffersonville. ACU controlled the offensive third and made several strong drives into the J'ville Defense but couldn't find the back of the net.

In the 20th minute a J'ville defender knocked a Colleen Lavelle shot down with her hand- inside the 18. Emily Rankin stepped up to the penalty kick and hit it with such force that it struck the back support with an audible "ping" and bounce back out to the penalty area. The Maroon Wave were up 1-0. Jeffersonville made some deep drives into the Maroon Wave defensive third but all were turned away by GK's Maddie Bavis and Maura Gouak, who split time in the net and recorded the shutout.

Defensively, Sweeper Erin Flach, aided by Emily Rankin at Stopper for a good part of the game plus backs Maura Gouak, MacKenzie Beltz, Carolyn Lyons and Nina Fakalujo prevented J'ville from getting many opportunities to shoot on the ACU net. Offensively, Anna Hallahan was tireless as a Forward and was taken out (but cleanly) on several close balls around the net- and as usual for this team, never, ever gave up. The final score stood even with the shotgun fire on the J'ville net. The next Maroon Wave game will be vs. Council Rock on Sunday 10.4.09