

Match #18: Bay Rockets vs. Fairview Warriors

Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2009

Temperature: mid-to-high 50's

Wind: calm

Location: Bay Memorial Stadium

Result: Bay (6)- Fairview (0)

This district semi-final state playoff game featured a re-match between Westshore Conference rivals, the Bay Rockets and the Fairview Warriors. Previously, these two teams played a close regular season match that was scoreless at half-time with the final result being a tight 2-0 Bay victory.

Let's just say that this game was an entirely different story, as Bay was clearly in control, in terms of early scoring opportunities and quality of possession. Eight minutes in, Bay tried a quick re-start from a Fairview foul, but the referee made Bay replace the ball where the foul was committed. This gave Bay the opportunity to set-up a play. Junior Conner Outcalt took the direct kick and flighted a beautiful ball in front of the goal. Junior Eric Linhart was there to re-direct it into the net for the game's first goal and an early 1-0 Bay lead. Seven minutes later senior Dan Spiesz found his way through several Fairview defenders to the end line where he crossed the ball in front of the goal. From there, the ball took a couple of bounces, first off Linhart, then off junior Will Irvine and past the Fairview goalkeeper for a 2-0 Bay lead. It was just four minutes later that Bay's Williams played a short corner to Spiesz, who took a tough shot from the corner of the penalty area that beat Fairview's goalkeeper, to give Bay a 3-0 lead.

Bay found vast amounts of space in the center of Fairview's defense that allowed Linhart and senior Shane Williams to direct the attack. As a result, the Rockets kept control of the ball and continued to create multiple scoring opportunities. Bay won a corner kick with five minutes to go in the half. Spiesz played it short to junior Alec Petro who shielded a couple of Fairview defenders to maintain control of the ball. With his back to the net along the sideline, he fired a left-footed cross that curled into the far side of the goal for a 4-0 Bay lead going into the half.

Bay didn't let the half-time break slow down their momentum. They had several shots on goal within the first ten minutes of the second half. Fairview was forced to clear the ball several times just to re-group on defense. Thirteen minutes in, Bay won a corner kick that was taken by Spiesz. His well-struck ball found the head of senior Sam Dickinson, who sent it past a reaching Fairview goalkeeper to make the score 5-0 in favor of the Rockets. One minute later, Bay closed out the scoring when Williams found Petro between two Fairview defenders. After receiving the pass, he took a touch then hit a shot that beat the goalkeeper and went into the side netting for Bay's sixth goal of the match.

That's how the game ended with Bay shutting down the Warriors, 6-0. Bay will play Rocky River, the winner of the other district semi-final match, at Bay Memorial Stadium on Saturday, October 31st at 4 PM.