

## ***Rockets win Regional Final!***

### ***Match #21: Bay Rockets vs. Lexington Minutemen***

Date: Saturday, November 7, 2009

Temperature: mid-60's

Skies: sunny

Wind: strong from the west

Location: Revere High School Stadium, Richfield, Ohio

**Result: Bay (4)- Lexington (1)**

This regional final soccer match featured the Bay Rockets with a 16-1-3 record versus the Lexington Minutemen with a 16-4-1 record. Bay beat Revere to get to this point, and Lexington beat Lima Shawnee.

The first half of this game was played up and down the field with both teams taking turn defending and counter-attacking. Bay was playing against the west wind that prevented any long balls from being played to their forwards. Lexington's defense held strong, as Bay had more shots on goal, but none could find their way through to goal. The half-time score was 0-0.

The second half was an entirely different story in terms of scoring. Senior Sam Dickinson started to find some space around the Lexington goal in the first five minutes of the second half. His two chances didn't result in a score, but they appeared to give the Rockets a boost. At the thirty-two minute mark, Dickinson earned a corner with a strong play at the goal line. Senior Dan Spiesz sent a beautifully-weighted corner kick in front of the goal. The Lexington goalkeeper missed it, and junior Will Irvine was there to head it into the net for the game's first goal. Just two minutes later, junior Alec Petro picked off an errant clearance by a Lexington defender and won a corner kick for Bay. Spiesz, again, sent a solid corner kick into the penalty area. This time it was junior Tony Passalcqua that made a good run and headed it past the Lexington goalkeeper for a 2-0 Bay lead.

The saying goes that the first few minutes after a goal are the most dangerous for the team that scored. This turned out to be true for Bay, as one minute later; Lexington took advantage of a direct kick that ended up bouncing around the Bay penalty area and was opportunistically knocked into the goal by a Lexington attacker. The Bay lead was cut in half to 2-1.

With senior goalkeeper Nate McDonald leading the defense, Bay continued to keep Lexington from creating good scoring chances over the next ten minutes. Bay's midfielders won numerous balls to keep possession and maintain the attack. At the 18-minute mark, Bay took a long throw in from close to the penalty area. The ball took a deflection and was then re-directed by Dickinson into the goal to give Bay the insurance goal they needed. Despite their 3-1 lead, Bay continued to attack the Lexington defense. With under two minutes to go, senior Colin Petty found Irvine in the penalty box where he side-footed it into the goal for a commanding 4-1 Bay lead.

With the victory, Bay wins their second consecutive regional final and heads to a state final-four match against the winner of Youngstown Cardinal Mooney and Mentor Lake Catholic. The game is scheduled to be played 7:00 PM Tuesday, November 10th at the Medina Soccer Stadium. Go Rockets!