

## ***Rockets win Regional Semi-Final!***

### ***Match #20: Bay Rockets vs. Revere Minutemen***

Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Temperature: in the low 40's

Wind: light wind

Location: Rocky River Stadium

**Result: Bay (2)- Revere (0)**

This game featured two of Ohio's strongest Division II boys soccer teams in the Bay Rockets and the Revere Minutemen. Both were ranked in the top five in the final state coaches poll. High school soccer fans would expect a spirited match between these two teams, and that's what they got. From the opening whistle, play was physical from both sides. Each team was trying to establish possession and develop a coordinated attack, but not always as the beautiful game was intended. As play settled out, it was the Rockets who were able to create more scoring chances, although none were too threatening.

Bay's defense in the opening half held the Minutemen from scoring by clearing passes to safety. Juniors Tony Passalcqua, Kenan Sayir and Conner Outcalt beat the Revere attackers to most balls, and prevented any passes from getting through to the danger area in front of goal. Senior goalkeeper, Nate McDonald, kept the defense organized and did a solid job of collecting all balls played in the air. The result was a half-time score of 0-0.

The second half started with the Rockets earning the majority of the scoring opportunities. It was approaching the 34 minute mark when junior Alec Petro kept possession of the ball at the goal line between the penalty area and the corner flag. He sent a hard crossing pass into the penalty area in front of goal. The ball pinged around in front of goal and out to senior Shane Williams, who was waiting just outside the penalty area. He took a touch to set himself, then fired a low-hard shot that went in the lower left hand corner of the goal to give Bay a 1-0 lead.

Bay had to resist several surges by Revere, but the Rockets were always able to clear the ball to safety. After about fifteen minutes of pressure by Revere, it appeared as though their energy level decreased. Bay kept sending balls to their forwards, junior Jackson Heller and senior Sam Dickinson, who more often than not were able to beat Revere's defenders to the ball to gain possession. At the ten minute mark, Bay took a direct kick that resulted in Outcalt sending a nicely-weighted pass to senior Dan Spiesz. His shot from 30 yards out was just pushed over the crossbar by Revere's goalkeeper to keep the score at 1-0. However, on the next Bay possession, Heller was able to use his balance and strength to work his way through two Revere defenders from the right-hand side of the penalty area. He hit a cross that was low to the turf in front of goal where Dickinson was able to run onto it and slot it home past the Revere goalkeeper to increase Bay's lead to 2-0 with eight minutes remaining.

The Rockets held firm in the closing minutes to prevent Revere from getting any good chances to score. The final and well-deserved result was Bay 2, Revere 0.

Next, the Rockets play in the regional finals against the Lexington Minutemen, who beat Lima Shawnee 2-0. This game was to be played in Lexington. However, it will be moved to an alternate site, since the regional final is to be played at a neutral site for both teams. The game is scheduled for Saturday, November 7th at 3:00 PM.