

MATCH #1: BAY ROCKETS vs. CHAGRIN FALLS TIGERS

Date: 08/24/09

Day: Monday

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Chagrin Falls High School Stadium

Result: Bay (3) - Chagrin Falls (0)

SUMMARY:

It was a beautiful evening in Chagrin Falls for the season opener for both teams with sunshine, comfortable temperatures and no wind. Bay showed good defense and started to connect several passes in the midfield early on. During the first ten minutes, both teams created scoring opportunities but neither team could capitalize. Tight marking by Bay prevented Chagrin's three senior attacking players from getting the ball where they wanted or passing the ball through for scoring chances.

At the 12 minute mark of the first half, Bay's senior mid-fielder, Shane Williams, one-timed a shot off an errant ball that skipped past the Chagrin Falls goalkeeper, who may have lost it in the sun, for the first goal of the game.

Chagrin Falls struck back just four minutes later with a strong shot from an unmarked midfielder that glanced off the side post and out of bounds. It was a good break for the visiting Rockets, because just a minute later junior defender, Alec Petro hit a cracker of a shot off a rebound from 35 yards away in the top left corner of the goal to beat the Chagrin Falls goalkeeper and increase Bay's lead to 2-0.

The home team turned up the heat before the half forcing Bay's senior goalkeeper, Nate McDonald, to make several athletic saves including a beautiful stop when he was one-on-one with an attacking player.

Behind their vocal supporters, Chagrin Falls came out in the second half with a lot of energy, but it was Bay who skillfully applied the pressure. First, Shane Williams had an early strike that was saved by the Tiger's goal keeper, then it was Jackson Heller, who won possession of a ball near the Bay sideline, got by his defender, and toe-poked a dipping ball past the keeper and into the side net for a 3-0 Bay lead.

Chagrin Falls kept their attack up, but good saves by McDonald and organized defending by Bay's four junior defenders, Kenan Sayir, Tony Passalacqua, Conner Outcalt, and Alec Petro preserved the shutout for the Rockets.

Overall, both teams attacked and defended well for an early season game. The difference was Bay's ability to capitalize on scoring opportunities by putting the ball in the goal, while Chagrin either missed the few opportunities Bay's defending allowed or McDonald made the big save when needed.

Final Score: Bay 3 - Chagrin Falls 0