

## **Match #12: Bay vs. Padua**

Date: October 3, 2009

Temperature: around 60 degrees

Skies: mostly cloudy

Wind: breezy, winds out of the west/southwest

Location: Bay High School Memorial Stadium

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

This boys' high school soccer game featured the Division II 2nd-ranked Bay Rockets versus the Padua Bruins. Padua has a number of quality wins this year against strong teams like St. Edwards, Cardinal Mooney, and Avon. On paper, this looked like a good match for both sides.

The game is played on the pitch, however, and Bay came out from the start as the aggressor. It was just nine minutes in when junior Kenan Sayir crossed a nice ball over Padua's defenders to senior Sam Dickinson, who headed it past the goalkeeper for a 1-0 Rockets lead.

Five minutes later, the Rockets kept their attack up, and it was Dickinson this time who initiated the scoring with a well-placed pass the junior Jackson Heller, who slotted the ball past the goalkeeper to increase Bay's lead to 2-0.

Padua was forced to open up their attack, and they came back just five minutes later on a long cross to their right midfielder. He beat his marker and senior Nate McDonald with a hard shot into the corner of the net to cut Bay's lead in half, 2-1.

From that point on, the Bruins played an offside trap that kept Bay's attack in check. The half-time score was 2-1 in favor of the Rockets.

In the second half, Bay's forwards adjusted their runs to match Padua's trap, and this created more scoring chances. Fifteen minutes into the second half, junior Eric Linhart used a burst of speed to get by his defender and take the ball to the goal line. Once there, he cut a pass back to top of the six-yard box where Heller was waiting, unmarked, to put the ball in the back of the net. Bay's lead was once again two goals at 3-1.

With sixteen minutes left, senior Shane Williams, found fellow senior, Dan Spiesz, on a pass that created a long breakaway run. Spiesz's first shot was blocked by Padua's goalkeeper, but the rebound came right back to him, and he put that in the back of the net for the last goal of the game making the final score 4-1 in favor of the Rockets.

Overall, it was a well-played, open game. Bay's speed up top, ball-control in the midfield, and stout defense organized by McDonald were too much for Padua to overcome. Bay went into their Homecoming dance on a high note, not just for the win, but because senior, Mike Humphrey, was named Bay's Homecoming King. Congratulations, Mike! Your soccer family is proud of you.