

Match #7: Bay Rockets versus Revere Patriots

Date: September 12, 2009

Temperature: mid-to-low 60's

Skies: mostly sunny

Wind: breeze out of the North

Location: Revere High School, Richfield, Ohio

Result: Bay (2) - Revere (1)

Bay played into the breeze at the start of the game, but that didn't deter the Rockets from creating scoring opportunities. With the wind, Revere's goalkeeper was pounding the ball the length of the field to their waiting forwards, as both teams traded chances early on.

Bay started to gain more possession in the Revere end of the pitch as evidenced by their five to one corner kick advantage in the first half. Bay's first goal came in the 28th minute from junior midfielder, Eric Linhart, who volleyed a shot past the Revere keeper after senior midfielder, Shane Williams took the corner, and the ball was kept alive on a header in the box. It was only two minutes later when, after a nice run, Linhart beat the Revere keeper on a well struck ball into the side net to give the visitors a 2-0 lead.

Revere responded by turning up the pressure, and they came close in the 16th minute. It was senior goalkeeper, Nate McDonald, who turned away their attempt on goal with a one-on-one save to maintain the Bay lead. Revere was persistent in their attack, however, and in the sixth minute a through-ball got past the Bay defenders, and their forward slotted it past McDonald to close the gap to 2-1.

Each team had good scoring chances before the half ended, but came away empty handed, as Revere had a direct kick hit off the crossbar, and Bay's junior forward, Jackson Heller, had a shot glance off the side post at the two-minute mark.

The second half started with much of the same open play that characterized the first half. Both sides played a physical game that prevented passes from connecting and good scoring opportunities from being created. Throughout the second half, it was often Bay's junior defenders, Conner Outcalt, Kenan Sayir, and Tony Passalacqua that were required to respond to Revere's pressure. The most exciting passage of play took place at the 14-minute mark, as McDonald made an excellent save on a ball that got through the Bay defense. On the Bay break that followed, the Revere goalkeeper received a yellow card for an attempted slide tackle on a Bay attacker. The resulting direct kick, taken by Williams, was bouncing around the penalty after Revere's substitute keeper blocked it, but the follow-up shot by Bay's junior midfielder, Alec Petro, was cleared to the touchline.

Revere had a shot at the six-minute mark that went just wide, and the Bay defense tightened down the home stretch to preserve the Rockets victory. The final score was 2-1 in favor of Bay.