

Match #13: Bay Rockets vs. Rocky River Pirates

Date: October 7, 2009

Temperature: brisk, in the 50's

Skies: mostly cloudy

Wind: breeze out of the West

Location: Rocky River High School Stadium

Result: Bay (1) - Rocky River (0)

This match pitted the Bay Rockets, who are tied for first place with the Avon Eagles in the Westshore Conference with a 5-0 record, against the Rocky River Pirates, who are alone in third place with a conference record of 4-1.

From the onset, it was the Rockets who applied the attacking pressure. Bay had numerous scoring chances and kept the Pirates goalkeeper busy with a variety of shots on goal. Throughout the opening half, Rocky River was often defending with nine players behind the ball. This really crowded the attacking area around the penalty box, and kept Bay's possession game from creating clear scoring opportunities. With ten minutes to go in the half, senior Shane Williams took a direct kick for the Rockets just to the right of the penalty box. His kick was re-directed on goal and saved by the Pirates goalkeeper, but he couldn't prevent the rebound from coming out to Bay Junior, Eric Linhart, who put it in the back of the goal for a 1-0 half-time lead.

After the interval, the game took on the same form as it did in the first half with the Pirates defending and the Rockets on the attack. There were a few chances for the Pirates when Bay misplayed balls near midfield, but there were no real chances created by the Pirates, in terms of passing and possession. They played a defend first, counter-attack second type of game, and the outcome reflected that. Although the final score was 1-0, Bay was never threatened, as senior goalkeeper, Nate McDonald, was forced to make just a few plays on the ball.

This game sets up a showdown to be played next Wednesday for the Westshore Conference title when Bay plays host to Avon. We hope to see you there.