

Match #16: Bay Rockets vs. Westlake Demons

Date: October 17, 2009

Temperature: mid-to-high 40's

Skies: cloudy

Wind: calm

Location: Burneson Middle School, Westlake - a very muddy field

Result: Bay (5) - Westlake (0)

This annual non-conference game features the Bay Rockets against their neighborhood rival, the Westlake Demons. The teams play for the honor of winning the Dover Cup. The Rockets and Demons experienced very successful regular season campaigns, but both suffered losses heading into this match. A victory heading into next week's state playoffs would be very beneficial for the winner.

There were three keys to this game. The field was very muddy after several days of rain which slowed down the play and made it difficult to control the ball. Second, despite the conditions, it was Bay that initiated the attack by winning balls in the midfield and quickly getting passes to their forwards. And third, Bay's defense, led by senior goalkeeper Nate McDonald, continues to prevent easy chances at goal for the opposing team.

Bay jumped to a lead about midway through the opening half when junior Alec Petro played a ball over the Demons defense and into space where junior Jackson Heller could run onto it, and take it to the goal line. Heller's cross found senior Shane Williams in front of the goal where he put it past the Westlake goalkeeper for the game's first goal. Minutes later, Bay scored again when junior Kenan Sayir played a ball to an open Williams near the top of the penalty area. His shot hit the side post and rebounded in front of the goal where Petro was first to react. He drove his shot to the back of the net for a 2-0 lead. Bay continued as the aggressor, as they seemed less affected by the muddy pitch than the Demons. After a header by senior Dan Spiesz kept possession for Bay, the ball came to Williams who took a shot from long range that beat a diving Westlake goalkeeper to build a comfortable 3-0 lead. It took a nice one-on-one save by McDonald to keep Westlake from scoring, as the half came to a close.

Westlake tried a more direct style of play in the second half, but Bay remained in control of the match. It was Williams, once again, that struck for Bay. A Westlake defender cleared the ball to Williams, who was about 30 yards from goal. Seeing that the Westlake goalkeeper was scrambling to return to defend his goal, he let a shot rip from there that hit the back of the net for his third goal of the game. Bay closed out the scoring when

junior, Conner Spies, found fellow junior, Will Irvine, in the penalty area with a good lead pass that Irvine struck past the goalkeeper for Bay's fifth goal.

With the 5-0 victory, Bay carries not only the Dover Cup home, but regains positive momentum heading into their state playoff run. Go Rockets!