

Maroon Wave Tie up Springfield 1-1

Ardley-(ACU)- November 14, 2009

The U14 Girls traveled to neighboring Springfield soccer club for a key ICSL match up on Saturday, November 14, 2009. Springfield was undefeated, untied and was atop the division standings. Due to the Nor'easter that blew through during the week field conditions would be soggy.

The girls would have 14 in uniform, 13 to start the game. Smart play was the name of the game. Maura Gouak was between the pipes at GK with Nina Fakoloju defending the right side, Erin Flach sweeping, Mackenzie Beltz on the left and regular midfielder Jessie Levin unselfishly holding the defense together at stopper.

The Maroon Wave came out strong and controlled the first 15 minutes of play, passing the ball around the field and opening up the middle. Emily Rankin was able to fire off a couple of open shots, as were fellow midfielders Veronica Asman and Colleen Lavelle. The Springfield GK had some trouble handling the wet ball but nothing got by her.. In the 25th minute Springfield pushed the ball out to their left and feathered a ball backup the middle to a speeding forward who was able to put the ball in the net cleanly.

Midfielder Kelsey Travor was able to run the touchlines deftly and pull defenders outside long enough to get some crossing passes into the center. Forward Caitlin Kushnir tagged a nice cross for the second week in a row, but it still would not go in. Carolyn Lyons, playing midfield tackled strongly and made a couple transitional runs, passing off to forward Anna Hallahan or dropping it back to defender Maddie Bavis. Yegene Hong played strong defense midfield and was able to keep the ball moving on the right side.

Near the end of the half the Maroon Wave survived a scare then a high shot hit the crossbar and came straight down, luckily Flach and Beltz worked together to clear the goalmouth and the defensive third. Down 1-0 at the half Gouak came out to Stopper and Bavis went to defend the net, which Fakoloju moved to stopper.

In the 57th minute of play, Flach picked off a ball at the 6yd line, shielding a Springfield player and played it out to Lavelle at the top of the 18yd box. Lavelle played the ball up quickly to Travor on the left. Kelsey Travor then put a leading send pass in front of a speeding Emily Rankin, who out ran the defense, moved left and placed a left to right shot off the inside of the post, tying the game up 1-1. Both teams continued to have opportunities.

Springfield seemed to move ahead a little later as their Striker placed a shot in the net but she had shoved the glue-like Flach down in order to create space for the shot. The goal was disallowed and AC United received a direct kick.

Bavis was spectacular, making several muddy, sliding saves and came out to play the ball with her feet as well. The final score knocked Springfield into second place and finally broke the Maroon Waves 5 game scoreless streak, dating back to the 2nd game of the Columbus Day tournament.