

Oct. 6 Girls Soccer



Kristina Ragolia had an assist in Nottingham's near upset of once-beaten Robbinsville today (Photo by John Blaine/purchase photos by e-mailing jbsportsphoto@aol.com).

Fast start sparks surging Hamilton to second straight victory

**By Rich Fisher
Fish4Scores.com**

Oct. 6: Don't look now, but the Hornets are officially hot.

The Hamilton West girls soccer team won its second straight game today, taking a 3-1 decision over Lawrence and handing the Cardinals (4-6-1) their third straight defeat. Hamilton (4-6-1) is now 3-1-1 in its last five games.

"It seems the ball is finally bouncing our way and we are playing some real nice soccer," coach Anthony Tessein said. "We've been talking to the girls all season about coming out ready to play, scoring early and playing with the lead. It took us 11 games, but it all came together today."

Hamilton took a 1-0 lead when the Hornets turned to a familiar weapon – a Sam Barlow corner kick. Barlow delivered a perfect kick to an unmarked Colleen Murphy, who converted for the second straight game.

Lawrence tied it on a misplayed cross, but Hamilton remained steadfast.

"Our girls never got down and we managed to storm right back and score a goal about a minute later," Tessein said.

That goal came on a big cross from Allyson McCormick (who gladly relinquished her goalie duties back to Erin Septer) that was re-directed by Loran Wyrrough for her fourth goal in two games.

Midway through the second half, the Hornets got an insurance goal when a hustling Selina Cifelli kept position on a pass from Emily Caronia, and found an open Sam Santiago. The freshman forward finished it off easily for his second goal in as many games.

Tessein noted that a new formation suggested by assistant coach Lisa Pittaro has been paying dividends in the Hornets success.

"So far it is giving our attack a much needed boost," Tessein said. "Our defense is going through some growing pains, but they started playing much better in the second half.

"The defense of Stephanie Sparano, Danielle Schneck, Angelina Cifelli, Emily Caronia and Colleen Murphy worked flawlessly in the second half and we are really encouraged by the quick progress they made today."

Northstars don't let winning streak end without a fight against Ravens

Nottingham had its modest two-game winning streak snapped, but the ever-improving Northstars took one of the Colonial Valley Conference's top teams into overtime before Robbinsville emerged with a 3-2 victory.

Dana Davies continued her torrid scoring pace, tallying both Northstar goals. Sara Eggert and Kristina Ragolia had assists and Chelsea Toscano made 16 saves in goal.

Davies second goal gave the Northstars a 2-1 lead before Robbinsville (8-1) managed to tie it, and Erin Sutphen tallied 1:21 into overtime. The Northstars dropped to 2-9.

WWP-North makes history with its win over Steinert

Steinert was on the wrong end of a history-making day today, as it dropped a 1-0 decision to West Windsor-Plainsboro North. It marked the first time in the 12-year-history of WWP-N (8-1-1) that the Northern Knights have ever beaten Steinert (5-4-2).

Jenn Ibanez had the game's lone goal with just 1:49 remaining in the first half. Briyanna Femia had six saves for the Spartans, who had a four-match unbeaten string snapped.