

Sep. 20 Boys Soccer



Michael Dill Photography

Steinert's Zach Gates tries to put one past Hamilton's Kyle Rogers during today's game, but Rogers came up with one of his 17 saves (Photo by Mike Dill/purchase photos at michaeldillphotography.com).

Steinert scoring woes continue, but one goal is enough to beat Hamilton

By Rich Fisher
Fish4Scores.com

Sep. 20: In a way, Todd Jacobs is fortunate.

The coach knows exactly where the problem lies with his Steinert boys' soccer team.

So too does defender Derek Shearer.

“Finishing, pretty much,” said Shearer, who assisted Mike Fornaro on the game’s lone goal today as Steinert nipped visiting Hamilton West, 1-0. “We need to finish. We have to take more people on in the box and it’ll be good. “Right now we’re just taking long shots and it’s easy for them to make saves.”

Steinert (2-2) pretty much did everything but finish today, as it held a 22-4 shot advantage and could have won by more had Hornet goalie Kyle Rogers not made 17 saves.

“We did a lot of nice stuff, especially the second half you saw us take it up a notch and get opportunities,” Jacobs said. “But we’re breaking down in that final third.

“We’ll send too hard of a pass screaming across the goal instead of using a little touch. That just comes from playing in these positions over and over and eventually they’ll get it right.”

Steinert opened the season with a 5-1 win over Trenton and got nice distribution in its scoring. After that, however, the Spartans went cold and did not score against Robbinsville or Peddie, and was held off the board in the first half today.

The drought finally ended three minutes into the second half when Shearer lifted a corner kick in the box that bounced off a player to Fornaro. The freshman converted for his first varsity goal.

“He’s a pretty good scorer once he gets in the box,” Shearer said.

“He just has a great mind for the game,” Jacobs added. “He’s a player, you can tell. As long as he continues to work hard on his game and is not content, he’ll be very dangerous in the next several years here.”

After Fornaro’s goal, Steinert held the play in Hamilton’s zone and Shearer had about three shots saved by Rogers.

“He’s kept us in the games,” said coach Mark “Goose” Laurenti, who was proud of his 0-5 team’s effort to keep it close. “He’s playing hard, he’s in the game.

“He didn’t get a lot of playing time the previous years, but when he did get an opportunity to play, he played with heart. The kid’s got a heart, that’s why I appreciate his play. He comes up big. I’m very proud of the young man.”

And while Rogers certainly was part of the story today, Jacobs is still waiting for his team to orchestrate better. Part of the problem is that Connor Moffat, the midfield maestro, has missed three games with a concussion (he will return tomorrow).

But the coach feels there should be enough talent still on the field to pump in a few scores.



Steinert's Pat Remboski tries getting past Hamilton's Sebastian Cwalina during today's game (Photo by Mike Dill/purchase photos at michaeldillphotography.com).

“Right now we’re just going 100 miles an hour right up the middle and right to the goal,” Jacobs said. “It’s not gonna work like that. You have to spread things out and let people get up there and build up slowly.”

The coach, who was one of Steinert’s most dangerous finishers as a player, feels part of the problem might be that the players are pressing too much. Because no one is scoring, everyone feels they have to score and things aren’t flowing free and easy.

“As soon as we couldn’t figure it out in the first, 15, 20 minutes of the game we just played tight,” Jacobs said. “These guys are very capable of knocking the ball around, but right now they put a little too much pressure on themselves instead of playing loose, but with intensity.

“They have to start keeping it simple. I think they’re putting too much pressure on themselves and a goal or two will definitely help us out. You get a couple in the first half and you’ll really see this team knock it around. We have that ability to do it. I think right now it’s in our mind ‘We gotta score, we gotta score.’ And we’re rushing. You have to build up from the back and let it develop.”

Uzo unloads on Notre Dame as Nottingham ekes out overtime win

In what might have been its biggest test to date, Nottingham emerged still unbeaten after taking a 2-1, overtime victory at Notre Dame.

Uzo Iloka made it happen for the 4-0 Northstars, scoring a second-half goal off an assist from Jacob Kouroume, then scoring the game-winner on a penalty kick in overtime.

Goalie Taylor Guest made six saves for Nottingham, which dropped the Irish to 3-2.

Henry paces TCA past New Egypt as Mikes improve to 5-0

Sep. 19: Lendee Henry had a goal and two assists while Peter Hall, Seun Yinka Kehinde, Charles Wheaton and Alex Michel had one goal each in Trenton Catholic’s 5-2 win over New Egypt. Goalie Simeon Donzon made four saves for the Iron Mikes (5-0).