

Sep. 15 Girls Soccer



Steinert's Lindsay Usarzewicz hits the deck to try and send a ball past Robbinsville's Morgan Michon during today's battle (Photo by Mike Dill/purchase photos at michaeldillphotography.com).

Turnbull is nothing but positive after Spartans loss to Robbinsville

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

Sep. 15: Aimee Turnbull could have been frustrated, but she chose to be happy.

"I'm pleased with how we played," the Steinert girls' soccer coach said after her Spartans fell, 3-2, to visiting Robbinsville today. "I thought they battled and fought hard.

"Some of the things we did in the first half that we wanted to improve on, they definitely put that into action the second half. So I'm proud of the way they battled."

That pride came in the wake of a tough loss, however.

Trailing 1-0 at halftime, the Spartans (1-1) found another gear after intermission and took the play to the Ravens (3-0). Steinert held an 8-5 shot advantage in the second half and became the first team this season to outshoot Robbinsville (14-12).

The Spartans nearly had the equalizer when Adrianna Boucher and Lindsay Usarzewicz slammed shots off the crossbar, literally within four seconds of each other. Steinert finally tied it when Angelina Buzgo, from about 20 yards out, popped a free kick over the wall and into the back of the net.

With 23:04 remaining the Spartans appeared to have grabbed all the momentum when Katelyn Becker, who had a strong game, converted the rebound off her initial shot to make it 2-1.

But the Spartans may have relaxed, because 16 seconds later Robbinsville tied it on a long shot from the right side by Reilly Sheehan.

It was the kind of lapse the Spartans should learn from.

“We’re gonna make some mistakes early in the season,” Turnbull said. “There are some things we need to work on.

“I always said the way we are at the beginning of the season isn’t how we’re going to end. We make these mistakes, we gotta work on them, which we’re doing. I think if we face them again, we’ll see what happens. I can guarantee the mistakes we made, we’ll continue to improve on as the season goes along.”

It was still anyone’s game until Erin Sutphen, who scored the game’s first goal, crossed one that was headed in by Christine Levering with just over seven minutes left.

It was another classic game in what is becoming – if it isn’t already – one of the best rivalries in the Colonial Valley Conference.

“We like that,” Turnbull said. “I told the players ‘Forget about being nervous, this is what we play for, this is the fun part of it. Just go out there and have fun.’

“I couldn’t have asked anything more from them, they played well. We had some players who did some great things. A total team effort, everyone contributed in different ways. I saw some great things and that will help us later in the season as long as we continue to improve on them.”

Nottingham scores goals but can’t get the victory

After scoring just one goal in its first two games, Nottingham tallied two today, but it wasn’t quite enough as West Windsor-Plainsboro South earned a 3-2 victory.

It was a family affair with the goal scoring, as Kaitlyn Ragolia had one and Kristina Ragolia had the other. But WWPS outscored the Northstars 2-1 in the second half to come away with their first win of the season while dropping Nottingham to 0-3.

Brittany Shipley had an assist and Chelsea Toscano made nine saves for the visiting ‘Stars.

Hightstown’s early goal proves to be enough in win over Hornets

Hightstown’s Alex Lopez scored 5:35 into the game for the only score all day as the Rams took a 1-0 win over Hamilton. Erin Septer made 12 saves in goal for the Hornets, who fell to 1-2 while Hightstown improved to 1-1.