

Sep. 16 Girls Soccer



Sam Barlow, shown playing against Hightstown Thursday, had two scoring chances go just wide in today's loss to Jackson Memorial (Photo by John Blaine/purchase photos by e-mailing jbsportsphoto@aol.com).

Hamilton loses three in a row but Schneck continues her stellar play

By Rich Fisher

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Sep. 16: As Hamilton West's girls' soccer team struggles to get back in the win column, one thing is certain.

The problems have not been on the defensive end.

The Hornets dropped a 2-0 decision to Jackson Memorial today, making it three straight shutout losses.

Hamilton has not scored since five minutes remained in its opener with Trenton. Since then, it has lost 2-0, 1-0 and 2-0.

Goalie Erin Septer has been solid for the most part, and is getting help from newly ordained sweeper Danielle Schneck.

Just a sophomore, Schneck played all over the field last season. When she came back this summer, she had a proposition for the coaching staff.

"She came to us this year and she wanted to play defense, she asked us to play there," coach Anthony Tessein said. "Last year we had moved her around quite a bit, she was a utility player. I told her if she wanted to play varsity she'll play where we put her.

"This year she came in and said 'I really think I can help us on defense.' I trusted her and through tryouts and preseason it was obvious she was one of our smartest players and the obvious choice for sweeper."

Schneck had been a forward all her career, but last year her Hibernian Fusion travel team coaches switched her to right wingback and she seemed to adapt nicely. It gave her the confidence to approach Tessein with her idea.

"I got very comfortable with playing defense and I just thought that's what I should be playing," Schneck said. "I just love being back there and seeing the whole field, showing everyone how to switch the field and get open. It's nice."

Unlike many young, inexperienced sweepers, Schneck doesn't look to just pound every ball upfield when it comes to her.

"I always look for who's open," she said. "People should be going wide and if they do I try to get it to them."

Tessein said after a shaky start, Danielle has immersed herself into the position.

"We went through some growing pains in our scrimmages with her at that position," Tessein said. "But now she's making really great decisions. It seems like she's dead on with every decision she makes.

"Even though we're 1-3, it's no reflection on how she played."

It's more of a reflection on some bad luck, as Hamilton has not gotten the bounces or the breaks.

The Hornets dominated early today but could not convert. In the midst of Hamilton's consistent possession, Jackson snuck home a goal to make it 1-0. The talented, young Jaguars added another one late in the half when Septer saved a free kick from in close but Jackson converted the rebound.

It was another case of balls rolling the right way for the opponents and the wrong way for Hamilton.

“In the Hightstown game (a 1-0 loss Thursday) we had a ball bounce off the crossbar early,” Tessein said. “If we score it would have changed everything. Instead they come back shortly after and score. We played well enough in that game to win, no disrespect to them.

“We had more of the same today. We had some chances in front and the ball doesn’t come to us.”

Jackson took control for most of the second half but the Hornets began to threaten late in the game with several corner kicks. Sam Barlow pounded two shots that went just wide or just over the goal.

Schneck feels it’s only a matter time before things change.

“We love each other, we’re a big family,” she said. “We can turn it back around, it’ll be there.”

Tessein hopes today could be an impetus as the Hornets head into Tuesday’s game with Steinert.

“I’m thinking hopefully we can build on this,” he said. “That Jackson team is excellent. They’re a very, very good team. At times we took it to him.”

And when Jackson took it to Hamilton, Schneck made sure to get in the way.