

## Sep. 26 Boys Soccer

# Nottingham suffers first loss as Allentown wins showdown of hot teams

By Rich Fisher

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**Sep. 26:** Nottingham High soccer coach Mike Braender and his Allentown counterpart Andrew Plunkett both agreed on one thing today.

The Redbirds capitalized on Nottingham mistakes.

“They took advantage of what they had today,” Braender said after the Northstars dropped their first of the season, 4-1, in Allentown.

“We took advantage of things today,” added Plunkett. “That’s what we’ve been lacking.”

They can’t be lacking too much, as it was the fourth straight win for Allentown (7-1). The Redbirds scored more goals against Nottingham (5-1) in one game than the Northstars had allowed in their first five matches combined.

The first came on Anthony DeRisi’s well placed free kick in the first half, and the next two came off of rifle throw-ins by Nick Caruso. One was one-touched in by DeRisi on a remarkably well-executed goal.

Braender felt the thinner width of the field threw Nottingham off-kilter, but added that part of winning is to adjust to other fields. After falling behind 4-0, the ‘Stars began to rally in the final 10 minutes as Uzo and Arinze Iloka both had good scoring chances that were stopped by Bob Millar (12 saves).

Nottingham finally scored when Luca deStasio’s free kick was saved and Sheik Bangora was there to bang in the rebound for his first varsity goal.

But overall, it was a disappointing day for Nottingham as it hoped to present itself in a better fashion in a match between the Colonial Valley Conference’s hottest teams.

“Give them a lot of credit no doubt about it,” Braender said. “They came out ready to play, we looked a little sluggish in the beginning.”

Even more disappointing was the way Nottingham reacted to adversity. The Northstars had not trailed by more than one goal all season, but when they fell behind by four their tempers began to flair.

“We lost our composure in the game, and they took advantage of that as well,” Braender said. “When we were down and upset and yelling, they took advantage. You play as a team and you win and lose as a team, we need to understand that.”

Hopefully for Nottingham, it’s a lesson learned.

“Better now than later on,” Braender said. “They deserved to win, their coach did a great job getting them ready to play. We’re gonna take a look at what we did tomorrow at practice, go back and work on it, and see what happens.”

## Steinert ‘explodes’ for two goals in topping Ewing in overtime

While two goals might not justify an explosion, they seemed like a gusher for Steinert today as the Spartans took a 2-1 victory at Ewing.

It was the first time Steinert (3-2-1) scored over one goal in a game since opening day, and fortunately for the Green & White it was enough for the win against the 2-4-1 Blue Devils.

The Spartans won it with three minutes left in the second overtime when Joe Paragone converted a pass from Xavier Ceballos for the game-winner. Alex Seunath tallied in the first half, while goalie Devon Downs had six saves.

“Derek Shearer had a solid game for us in the midfield today,” coach Todd Jacobs said. “And our defenders Pat McCann, Pat Remboski, Xavier Ceballos and CJ Harvell did a nice job.”

### **Hornets’ struggles continue at WW-P South**

Mike Agabiti had a goal off a feed from Victor Franco, but it wasn’t enough as Hamilton fell at West Windsor-Plainsboro South, 8-1.

Hamilton fell to 0-7 while the Pirates are 2-3-1.

### **TCA moves to 7-0 with 5-1 victory over Riverside**

Lorenzo Tucker tallied two goals, Emmanuel Temeh added a goal and an assist while Alex Porras and Lendee Henry scored one goal each as Trenton Catholic Academy took a 5-1 win over Riverside today.

In improving to 7-0 (4-0 Burlington County Freedom Division), the Iron Mikes got three assists from Charles Wheaton and one from Peter Hall. Goalie Simeon Donzon made three saves.