

Sep. 8 2011 Boys Soccer

A Guest 'Star helps Nottingham put on quite an opening-day show

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

Sep. 8: Taylor Guest went from possible starting goalie, to back-up, then back to starter, and finally to the role of hero.

And it all happened pretty darn fast.

The junior made his first varsity start in goal a successful one today, as he recorded six saves to help Nottingham's boys' soccer team take a 6-0 victory at West Windsor-Plainsboro North.

It was a rousing opening-day success for Nottingham as it tries to rebound from a tough 2010 season.

Luca deStasio led the way with a hat trick while younger brother Fulvio chipped in with a goal. Uzo Iloka had a goal and an assist and Gary Rojas scored the final goal. Sebastian Gallego and Aaron Stovall each had two assists while Arinze Iloka had an assist.

But it was Guest who might be considered the surprise 'Star of the Game.

After last season, Nottingham planned on making him the starting goalie. Rob Ertel then decided to come out and, because he had previous experience, became the starter during preseason.

But just prior to the start of the campaign it was discovered Ertel is ineligible for the year, which thrust Guest back into the starting role.

"He stepped up," coach Mike Braender said. "He makes his first varsity start, comes in and gets a shutout.

"We knew we were losing our keeper last year. Taylor's a baseball guy but he came out for soccer. We threw him in the goal and told him to work on the JV and he would be our potential starter. When the other kid came out we were going with him due to more experience but when we found out we wouldn't have him, Taylor stepped up big time and did an incredible job."

Braender was also happy with the defense in front of his 'keeper, as Matt Gigliotti, Obinna Iloka, Reno LaRagione and Bensley Blain all drew praise from the coach.

"Our defense was outstanding," Braender said. "That carried us, I thought. We played well and we played together as a team.

"I also can't speak enough about how both of the captains played. Luca and Aaron Stovall stepped up and led the team today. Luca started the scoring off 10 minutes into the game. That's what we needed to get ourselves going."

The Northstars built their lead from there, putting it away with four second-half goals.

"Our whole team gained confidence from this game," Braender said. "I'm happy we could start off on right foot."

Especially the goalie, who had the right hands in his varsity debut.

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Steinert at Hightstown and Hamilton at Trenton were both rained out and will be attempted to be played Friday.



After getting his first starting assignment on short notice, Taylor Guest promptly recorded a shutout in Nottingham's opening-day win over WWPN today.