Lady Titans speed by Jays in soccer

Written by Jim Metcalfe
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DELPHOS — The Ottawa-Glandorf girls soccer team used its speed and depth to shut out St. John's 3-0 Saturday morning/afternoon at the St. John's Annex.

The Lady Titans (5-0-2) received two goals from Stephanie Hempfling and one from Megan Siefker as they outshot the Jays (3-4-1) 18-6, 11-0 the first half.

Junior Samantha Wehri garnered 14 saves between the pipes for the Jays and Megan Hoehn five for the visitors.

"We knew what O-G had — we played them this summer. We knew coming in they were fast and deep and we'd have to hang in there all match long," Blue Jay coach John Munoz said. "We did; I'm proud of that effort. Even when we were tired because of all the fresh legs they can bring in every five minutes, we stayed right with them. These girls play to the last whistle."

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First-year Titan coach Allison Schroeder noted how having that depth is such a luxury.

"I'm not afraid to use any of the 21 girls we have on varsity. We can wear teams down, like we did today," Schroeder added. "We played everybody about the same minutes today. We have a big game coming up and we wanted to make sure everybody was fine-tuned on their touches. We know we have a lot of speed all over the lineup and we try to use that to our advantage."

The Titans scored first at 32:31 of the first half as Hempfling, a senior midfielder, put the orb past Wehri and into the back of the net from inside the 18-yard box.

The visitors — who controlled the ball most of the half in their offensive end in not allowing the Jays a shot on-goal — made it 2-0 at the 14:20 mark of the first half as the junior Siefker did the honors.

The Jays had much better offensive flow the second half but couldn't break through.

At 38:10, senior Madison Kreeger fired from well out on the right side but Hoehn got the stop.

Kreeger took another shot on-goal at 33:46 but couldn't get it past the Titan netminder.

At the 27:58, the Jays were a bit unlucky as senior Samantha Bonifas fired a laser at the goal but the defender deflected it away.

The Titans were also a bit unlucky at 19:10 when senior Michelle Maag fired a 19-yarder that hit off the crossbar.

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At 17:32, Maag tried a sharp header form 17 yards but Wehri got the snag.

At the 16:24 mark, Hempfling got a direct kick fr5om just outside the 18 on the right wing and floated one that handcuffed Wehri and ended in the cords for a 3-0 edge.

The Jays had a couple of other chances as freshman Maria Giambruno-Fuge had both: at 14:56, her 20-yarder was denied, as was her in-close effort at 13:50.

Wehri got her hands on the Titans' last two efforts: at 11:51, when she deflected an 8-yarder by junior Emma Bruskotter; and at 7:51, when she stopped Siefker's 8-yarder.

"We had a few good opportunities the second half. We started to connect better with the passing and ball control, moving the ball forward from the back line to midfield and to the forwards," Munoz added. "We're improving when it comes to creating those chances; we're getting more of them and we're getting better ones. Unfortunately, we're not putting the ball in the back of the net."

Ottawa-Glandorf visits Shawnee in WBL play at 7 p.m. tonight.

St. John's visits Crestview 5 p.m. Tuesday.