

Cards come alive

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After a less-than-stellar first 13 games, the St. John Fisher College women's soccer team suddenly finds themselves on fire, as they smashed the Elmira College Soaring Eagles 3-0 on Saturday at Growney Stadium. Following up on a 7-0 win against Wells, Fisher (4-9-2, 1-4-1 in Empire 8) now has a two-game winning streak as they enter the final stretch of the season, with this win against Elmira (2-10-1, 0-4-1 in E8) being their first conference win of the season.

Head coach Jill McCabe was understandably happy with the result.

"We played very well, and the nice thing is we found the net," she said, "We figured out a way to win."

The match began with both teams getting some opportunities but neither being able to capitalize on them.

In the 27th minute, freshman midfielder Alexandra Rohloff, who had entered the match as a substitution in the 19th minute, broke the scoreless tie. Taking her own rebound, she proceeded to knock the ball in. The goal gave Fisher a 1-0 lead.

That score would hold until almost halftime, as in the 43rd minute Rohloff again struck, scoring her second goal of the match to give Fisher the 2-0 edge as the first half came to an end. Rohloff's two goals were the first ones for her this season.

Postgame, Rohloff attributed much of the success of the day not to herself, but to the team as a whole.

"We had possession of the ball a lot, and that helped us," she said. She added that the team was successful in "moving the ball a lot, taking people on more and we were successful for that."

In the second half, Fisher scored one final time, as in the 59th minute freshman Alex Capozzi, the team's leading scorer after her hat-trick performance against Wells, scored her fourth goal of the season, putting in a shot after a breakaway. The score put Fisher up 3-0, which would be final score of the match.

Freshman goalkeeper Jessica Plukas kept a clean sheet in the match, recording five saves.

Coming out of the game, coach McCabe was happy with the contributions that the underclassmen

had made of late, and was hopeful for the future.

"Absolutely, [it is a good sign for the future.] We have very good depth on our entire roster, we have three seniors and four juniors, and the rest are sophomores and freshmen."

"We're very young, we're doing some very good things, we're peaking right now and this is the right time to peak [since] this was a important conference game and hopefully we'll sneak into the Empire Eight playoffs and do some damage," she said.

The Cardinals, who are currently seventh out of the misleadingly named Empire Eight's nine teams, would likely need to win out and possibly get some help to make the top four that qualify for the conference tournament. However, their two remaining conference opponents, Alfred and Utica, are also both near the bottom of the standings, and McCabe thinks the team definitely has a chance with their remaining schedule.

"We played a big piece of our tougher part of our schedule earlier in the season. We have two important conference games left with Alfred and Utica. If we play well we should come away with W's. We also match up against U of R, and I think they are ranked third in the region right now, so that will be a big test for us. Hopefully we can sneak one by them."

Fisher next takes to the pitch on Wednesday night, against Alfred.

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