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Fisher loses a thriller

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Paul Williams

Posted: Wednesday, September 22, 2010 12:00 am

Dan Glickman
Staff Writer | 0 comments

On paper, the women's soccer game between St. John Fisher and Union College didn't look like one that would have gone into the final ten minutes scoreless, much less end with Union prevailing in a close 1-0 squeaker victory at a sunny Growney Stadium on Saturday.

After all, the Union College Dutchwomen were entering the game with a 4-1 record and possessed a high-scoring offense that was averaging about five goals a game. By contrast, the St. John Fisher Cardinals had a 1-4-1 record. On paper, one would have thought that the Dutchwomen would have gone to an easy victory, and if Fisher were to triumph, it would be a squeaker.

On paper, that is. But the game is played on the field (or, rather, pitch), as Fisher's defense held back the Liberty League powerhouse until finally they could hold no more, giving up a heartbreaking 84th minute header to Union's Jessica Strang for the match's lone score. Strang's goal, coming off a corner kick by Jennifer Mansfield, came a mere six minutes before the end of regulation.

Union (5-1-0), which had just lost what Dutchwomen head coach Brian Speck called a "real tough match" against the University of Rochester the day before, was constantly on the attack through much of the match. Despite Speck's worries about their "ability to bounce back from that [loss to Rochester] physically and mentally," Union outshot Fisher 16-5 in the match and

Fisher loses a thriller

Freshman defender Krista Pilla slides for the ball against a Union player on a heartbreaking 1-0 loss. The Cardinals are now 1-4-1 to start the season.

controlled possession throughout most of the game.

After this loss to Union, Fisher (1-5-1) is on a two-match losing streak, and has not won since their Sept. 4 victory against Bard College. They have, however had a tie during that period of time.

Positives for the Cardinals could be drawn from the match against Union.

"You're never happy when you lose, that's for sure, but Union is a very top-ranked team. Typically they get after us quite a bit," Fisher head coach Jill McCabe said in a post-game interview, "today we played brilliant - we played extremely well defensively, [and] we had some great attacking opportunities."

Although the final score was "unfortunate and unlucky", McCabe said that "overall we did some very good things, and we can build on this moving forward."

Despite the team's record, McCabe believes the team has played well so far this season.

"It's similar to today's game, [...] we're playing well, in every game we're playing extremely well. Unfortunately we

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walk away sometimes with a loss or a tie when we should have won."



"The record doesn't depict how well we are playing. Today though we played a whole notch up, and if we play at this level the 'W's' will come."

Senior Megan Gee agreed, saying that if they could "take the intensity that we played with," and carry it on to future games that could "have very good results."

Fisher's defense was led by goalkeeper Jessica Plukas, who recorded eight saves during the match

Union coach Speck applauded Fisher's defense, saying that, "They did a great job taking it [the ball] away and made it very difficult for us to penetrate."

Fisher returns to Growney Stadium Sept. 29 against Nazareth College.

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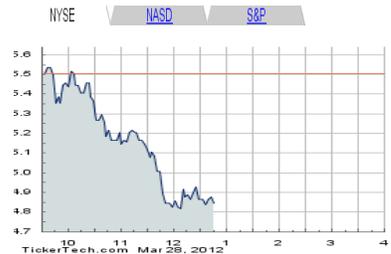
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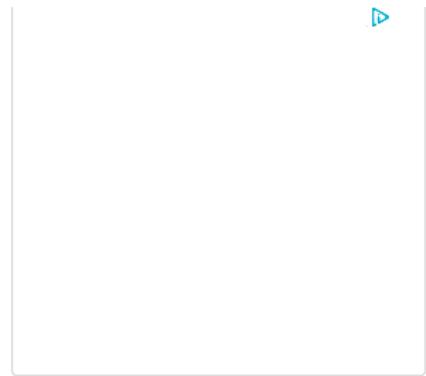
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