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Sports

Crescenta Valley breezes by Nitros

Soccer: Fighting the wind, Crescenta Valley girls top Glendale in Pacific League match.

By Charles Rich

LA CRESCENTA — Neither Kristine Lowe nor Cesar Hidalgo will claim to be meteorologists. Not yet anyway.

With winds gusting through the foothills, Lowe and Hidalgo, who coach the Glendale and Crescenta Valley high girls' soccer teams, respectively, were forced to decide which side of the field would be best served to give them an advantage.

Lowe made the choice to have Glendale go against the wind in the first half.

Crescenta Valley immediately took advantage and coasted to a 5-0 Pacific League home victory against Glendale on Friday.

The Falcons (5-4-2, 3-0 in league) got two goals in the first 10 minutes and added three second-half goals. It's the most goals the Falcons have scored in a match this season.

Astrid Castaneda had two goals for Crescenta Valley, which got one each from Hannah Green, Olivia Sierra and Amanda Schwartz.

"It was a hard decision," said Lowe, who got 13 saves from junior goalkeeper Natasha Wolhein. "We thought the wind was going one way and then it was gusting. I've never seen anything like that around here.

"CV played a great game. We did so much better in the first half and with our positioning."

Green opened the scoring in the fifth minute when she intercepted a Glendale defender's clearing attempt that got knocked down by the wind. Green deposited a left-footed shot past Wolhein.

Things got worse for the Nitros (1-6, 0-3).

Crescenta Valley's Veronica Aguilar was tripped in the goal box, resulting in a penalty shot in the 10th minute.

Hidalgo let Sierra take the shot and she promptly converted for a 2-0 advantage.

Hidalgo said the winds didn't bother the Falcons, who are attempting to win their first league championship since sharing it with Arcadia in 2005.

"We didn't pay any attention," said Hidalgo, whose team took third place in league a season ago. "We had to go out there and do what we needed to do.

"The effort was there because we knew we had to score and then keep possession of the ball. We had to stay balanced and play the game."

Schwartz made it 3-0 in the 47th minute. Castaneda scored in the 49th and 53rd minutes to cap the victory.

Crescenta Valley goalkeepers Emma Dearman and Apolonia Martinez combined for the shutout.

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