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Published Friday, January 12, 2007 10:19 PM PST

Sports

Nitros unable to net victory

Soccer: Glendale strikes first, but gives up four unanswered goals in league loss to Arcadia, 4-1.

By Jonathan Raber

SOUTHEAST GLENDALE — For the initial 70 minutes, the Glendale High girls' soccer team was able to hang with a perennial powerhouse.

In the final 10 minutes, the team lost its steam.

The Nitros fell to Arcadia, 4-1, after allowing four unanswered goals in Friday's Pacific League match at Moyse Field.

"I am so proud, the girls did an amazing job," Glendale Coach Kristine Lowe said. "We knew [Arcadia] was going to be a great team, so we had to step it up once the whistle blew."

The Nitros (2-7, 1-4 in league) heeded their coach's gameplan and momentarily fazed the Apaches (7-4-2, 3-0-1) by getting on the scoreboard early.

Just 10 minutes in, Nitros defender Gabbi Chiriboga sent a high, arching through-ball from midfield that was corralled by teammate Sarah Mizuki. Mizuki dribbled once before chipping the ball in front of the goal box and watched it sail over the head of the helpless goalie for the 1-0 lead.

"When you attack the ball, you win it and proceed to score," said Lowe of the goal.

Arcadia, which finished second in league last season after a string of league titles, would not be down for long, responding with a goal of its own eight minutes later.

After an Apaches cross into the box, Anja Klotzle headed the ball to Callie Housos, who volleyed it out of the air and into the back of the net to even the score at 1.

The score would hold until halftime.

The Nitros began the second-half much the same way they started the first — aggressive.

A cornerkick in the 50th minute saw the Nitros get two very good looks at the goal. An initial header was turned away by the Apaches goalie and ended up at the feet of Mizuki, whose rebound shot from point-blank range was also saved.

At that point, Arcadia seemed to get a second wind.

The Apaches scored six minutes later on a deep kick from Donna Bennett that sailed through the air from 30 yards out and over Glendale goalie Natasha Wolhein for a 2-1 advantage.

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Still, the Nitros fought, getting a few more excellent looks on goal for the equalizer that just couldn't seem to find the back of the net.

Housos then put the nail in the coffin.

The forward scored her second goal of the match in the 70th minute and completed the hat trick one minute later for the game's final score.

For the Nitros, they still need to learn to forge ahead after giving up goals instead of dwelling on them.

"We need to pick our chins up and not worry about goals," Lowe said. "It's a mental game after that."

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