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Published Friday, January 26, 2007 10:55 PM PST

Sports

Crescenta Valley keeps rolling on

Soccer: Falcons girls tally seventh straight shutout in 3-0 win against Glendale at Moyse Field.

By Grant Gordon

SOUTHEAST GLENDALE — As the Crescenta Valley High girls' soccer team continues to roll through Pacific League play, it's fast becoming apparent that scoring goals against the Falcons, much less beating them, has become borderline inconceivable.

Crescenta Valley's stingy defense allowed just four shots in its 3-0 win against host Glendale on Friday afternoon at Moyse Field.

The Falcons won their seventh straight game, all of them shutouts, all of them league triumphs.

"I think our defense works really hard," said sophomore forward Summer Davidson, who had two goals. "Sometimes forwards take what [the defense] does for granted, but [we really do respect how well they're playing]."

Crescenta Valley (11-4-2, 9-0 in league) controlled the duration of the match, nabbing a 1-0 lead less than five minutes into the game. Davidson was the recipient of a through ball from Veronica Aguilar on the score.

It was the beginning of a day for Glendale (4-10, 3-6) in which the Nitros were on their heels throughout.

"We have to work on not being intimidated by bigger and better teams," Glendale Coach Kris Lowe said. "The team needs to be confident in their abilities.

"They have the ability to do it."

In the 19th minute, Kim Carcich banged in the remnants of a Brittany Dearman free kick for a 2-0 Falcons lead.

In the second half, Davidson scored again in the 67th minute for the 3-0 final score. It came off a rebound from a point-blank shot by Brittany Johnson that was saved by Glendale keeper Natasha Wolhein.

Despite the score, it was the play of Nitros defender Becky Soken and Wolhein that were likely the Glendale highlights. Wolhein had seven saves in the game and thwarted a slew of Crescenta Valley corner kicks.

"She's an exception goalie," Lowe said.

Led by Sammie Wright and Tori Baldrige, the Falcons defense allowed few, if any, scoring chances.

Goalie Apolonia Martinez needed to make just one save in notching the shutout.

Martinez was filling in for normal starter Emma Dearman, who was given the day off. Starters Astrid

Castaneda, Brittany Berger and Richelle Mascaro were all out nursing injuries.

"It does make a big difference," said Hidalgo of playing without three starters. "We want them to heal for CIF."

Until CIF comes around, the Falcons have five games remaining, as they try and lock up the league title.

Along the way, they're trying to get better in hopes of rolling through CIF like they have league play.

"There's always room for improvement," Davidson said. "We're getting done what we need to do, but just like Cesar says, 'We're just going up the hill.'"

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