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Sports

## Controversy ties up Glendale

**Soccer: Nitros girls give up lead on goal and never recover in 1-1 deadlock with Pasadena at Moyse.**

By Grant Gordon

SOUTHEAST GLENDALE — For the Glendale High girls' soccer team, it was a shift in momentum the Nitros never recovered from.

It left them settling for a tie rather than celebrating a win against the defending Pacific League champions.

Just seconds before halftime, visiting Pasadena scored a controversial goal that led to the Nitros and Bulldogs tying, 1-1, on Wednesday afternoon at Moyse Field.

"I really did think it was an offside call, we had enough people [who saw it]," said Glendale Coach Kris Lowe, referring to Pasadena forward Jasmine Williams' goal in the 40th minute that tied the game.

On a three-on-one breakaway, Williams received a pass behind Nitros defender Becky Soken. Williams tapped in the goal, as Soken, her teammates, Glendale fans and coaches protested the call.

Lowe admitted she couldn't tell from her vantage point if it was offside or not, but had assistant coaches and junior varsity coaches — who were closer to the play — tell her it was.

"I think it was just a mistake, people are human, they make mistakes," Lowe said. "We should have scored more goals and it wouldn't have mattered."

It took just 14 minutes for Glendale (5-9-1, 4-6-1 in league) to score, but after Pasadena (4-4-3 in league) scored, the Nitros never fully recovered.

The first half saw Glendale dominate possession and nab an 11-5 shot advantage.

Freshman midfielder Gabbi Chiriboga let loose on a beautiful pass from midfield that crossed from the right sideline to the left corner, deep in Pasadena territory. Nitros sophomore forward Samantha Santiesteban then crossed a ball that rolled through the grasp of the Pasadena goalkeeper. Nitros junior midfielder Sarah Mizuki cleaned it up for a 1-0 lead.

"That was really nice," Lowe said of the goal. "It was well put together, well executed."

For the most part, the Pasadena offense consisted of sporadic breakaways that were usually quelled by the Glendale defense or Nitros goalie Natasha Wolhein, who had six saves on the day.

In the second half — and, perhaps more importantly, after the game-tying goal — Glendale wavered. It resulted in an evenly contested half that saw Pasadena's speed and physical style take its toll on the Nitros, both physically and mentally.

"Our team isn't used to playing the more physical teams," Lowe said. "It takes them out of their game."

It might have taken the Nitros out of playoff contention, as well. Glendale is fifth in league with nine points, two behind fourth-place Pasadena with three league games left. The top four teams in league advance to the postseason.

Glendale travels on Friday to face third-place Arcadia, which lost to Pasadena on Monday.

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