

Boys Soccer Game Report

February 21, 2020

The #1 ranked Middle School Boys Soccer Team (6-0) took to the field for the first time since the Winter Break on Thursday. In a match versus Wornick (1-4-1), the Eagles came into the game confident in their ability to quickly put away the new Wornick team. Coach Rolufs opted to experiment with the defensive line-up and allow Hauke R (8th Grade) to play more offensively, in anticipation of upcoming games against Armstrong and Hausner, where offensive strength will be needed. GISSV took the field with only three defenders in the back: Toshi J (8th), Liam M (8th) and Henry F (5th).

Wornick came out immediately with a strong offense and shocked our thinner defensive line-up, repeatedly penetrating the Eagle's back line, which looked disoriented and off with their timing and communication. Within 10 minutes, Wornick landed two goals on offensive combinations up their left side of the field. The first successful attack came as the Eagles' midfielders failed to contain Wornick's passing at half-field and our defenders retreated, allowing Wornick the space to dribble the ball into the penalty box. After a few failed defensive jabs at the ball, Wornick's #21 managed to weave through and take a shot on Goalie Kai F (8th), who was racing out to cut off the shooter's angle. Kai went down to successfully block the shot, but at close quarters the hard-shot ball got away from him and was kicked into the net by a nearby Wornick attacker before Kai could get back to his feet. It was the first goal against the Eagles this season, and a second was soon to follow when the defense over-committed to one side of the field leaving three Wornick attackers open in front of the goal. A short Wornick cross to the middle found the foot of a Wornick forward and was placed outside of Kai F's reach.

Down 2-0, a weaker team could have allowed its shock and frustration to destroy the remainder of their play, but the Eagles rallied their spirits and went on the counter attack. Hauke R continued to test the new offensive strategy and was the first GISSV player to get the Eagles on the scoreboard. Top scorer Jayden P (5th) followed up shortly thereafter to tie the game at 2-2. Eric I (7th) and Orkeny V (6th) added more pressure up top with a barrage of shots before the end of the 1st half and, with the helpful passing combinations of two 1st year subs, William K (5th) and Richard L (7th), Eric got the ball again and beat the Wornick Goalie on a one-on-one to make it a GISSV 3-2 comeback lead after 30 minutes of play.

At half-time the team reflected on the struggles and successes of the first half and opted to reset the defense by bringing Hauke R back to make a 4-man defensive line and allowing Philip W to take on the entire center-mid position. When the team took the field again, their confidence and communication was solid and the passing game improved. Kilian F (7th) added power and speed to the defense as well, providing the team with quick transitions to offense from the back. Eric put his second goal in within the first five minutes of the second half and it was followed by a beautifully placed right-foot long shot from Anton S (8th). Orkeny V - shaking off the frustration of repeated shots that didn't find the net during the first half - kept going for it and knocked a long shot in the goal to bring the lead to 6-2. Wornick, however, didn't let up either, and scored again when #21 quickly countered on the left side and found the space to take a shot into the corner of the net. It would be Wornick's last goal of the game, but GISSV would score once again off a shot by Eric I. Final score: 7-3.

GISSV faces its last regular season opponent on Friday, March 6, at Charles Armstrong School (5-0) in Belmont.