

TEAMS SPLIT IN THURSDAY CROSS-TOWN SOCCER MATCHES

By DOUG CALSBEEK
Co-Editor

ORANGE CITY — On two soccer fields in Orange City on Thursday, April 27, soccer matches between Unity Christian and MOC-Floyd Valley teams saw shutouts. The Knight boys downed the Dutch 3-0. A single goal decided the girls match in favor of MOC-Floyd Valley.

Boys match

In the boys' match at half time, the Knights were in front 2-0. MOC-Floyd Valley suffered an own goal. Ivan Vinichenko placed a kick into goal in the first half and scored again in the second.

Vinichenko had three shots on frame, Stephen Schreurs two. Traevin Van Beek, Ethan Wynia, Asa Byl and Parker Van Roekel each had a single shot on goal.

Knight keeper Charlie Wierenga kept a clean sheet with four saves.

"It was our best game of the season thus far," said Knight boys coach David Lee. "Physicality, intensity, game plan — everything was above par."

For the Dutch, Irving Ramirez Iniguez had four shots on goal, Sawyer Bolton two and Kevin Anzua one. Keeper Owen Vander Pol had 10 saves in the three-goal loss.

"Tough match against a good team," said Dutch boys coach Blake Wieking. "We could definitely tell it was our third game in four days. We looked tired at times. It's not easy playing three games in a week. That's asking a lot from players."

"I'm proud of the guys on the field at the end of the game who finished well," Wieking said. "Our goal going into the second half was to put good pressure on their defense. For much of the second half we did that, we just couldn't get the momentum going with a goal."

Girls match

In the girls single-goal battle, Aubrey DeShaw scored in the first half. "Aubrey scored on a ball that was not cleared well," said Dutch girls coach Sara Nessa. "She controlled the ball, took a few touches, and finished from the left side. It was a well-placed shot. She really has been honing in on her finishing and distribution skills and is quite dangerous whenever she has the ball."

De Shaw had four shots on net. Teammates with a shot on goal each were Madeline Heemstra, Amelia Calsbeek, Addison Douma, Angel Huisman and Julie Plender. Amanda Hulstein preserved the shutout with seven saves.

"This was one of the best games our defensive unit has played. They are clicking and working well together," Nessa said. "Unity had some shots on goal but nothing that was real dangerous. Our defense does a great job of getting in the way of attacks, and they are able to limit the number of solid opportunities from other teams. That was the case again tonight for Madeline Heemstra, Anna Hummel, Maddie Pottebaum, and Aubrey Croatt. Most of Unity's shots came from on the edge of the 18. Amanda does a great job to be in position ready for shots, and she handled what came her way last night."

"This was a solid effort by our entire team," said Nessa. "We were able to get a lead, and we've been talking about how to finish out games with a lead. The girls stepped up big and did what they needed to and

walked away with a solid win."

Knight keeper Mykayla Zylstra turned away nine Dutch shots in the loss. The Knights had nine shots on frame, as well. Callie Karhoff and Chloe Vanden Berg each had three shots on net. Autumn Bousema had two. Hannah Clemens had one shot on goal.

Unity Christian girls' coach Kevin Muyskens said the Knights "passed the ball very well and played solid defense. We just didn't put the ball in the net."

"Gracie Deckers had an outstanding game in the midfield."



Fending off

Hannah Clemens (16) of Unity Christian and Anna Hummel (3) of MOC-Floyd Valley vie for the ball in action on Thursday, April 27. In the girls' match at the Northwestern College Soccer Complex, the Dutch girls scored the only, and winning, goal in the second half of play. (Photo by Doug Calsbeek)



Flashing feet

Carter Slenk (7) of Unity Christian and Nathan Anderson (5) of MOC-Floyd Valley battle for the ball on the Knight grass on Thursday, April 27. In the boys' match, the Knights shut out the Dutch 3-0. (Photo by Doug Calsbeek)

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the businesses who generously contributed to our after prom party. Your support is sincerely appreciated.

2023 MOC-Floyd Valley After Prom Committee

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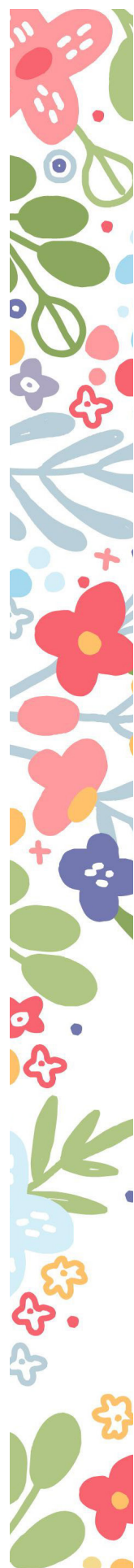
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