

Soccer team begins title defense

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Heading into its sixth game of the season, the young yet talented varsity soccer team is living up to coach Scott Ackman's expectations.

"We are very good this year; from the bench to the starters we have good talent and depth," Ackman said

Although they have struggled a bit early, with a 3-2 record, the Wolves have put on quite a show for their fans, winning or losing games decided in the final minutes or dominating their opponents.

On Tuesday, Aug. 29, the team gallantly fought through the rain but fell short 2-0 to Lake Forest when they saw a hard fought match slip away when their defense broke down, letting the Scouts score in the closing minutes.

The Wolves rebounded two days later, crushing Vernon Hills 5-0. Sophomore forward Ben Pintilei scored three out of the five goals while sophomore midfielder Ionut Clocan added two of his own. Senior team captain and goaltender Kevin Stone defended a perfect goal, shutting out the Cougars, who left the field in disbelief.

The pitchmen made it two in row on Saturday, Sept. 2, beating Hoffman Estates 4-3 in an exciting match, senior midfielder Steven Villamil and Pintilei got the team rolling with early goals, while star of the game, junior midfielder Kamil Szczpenski, scored the two goals, including the game winner with four minutes left on the clock.

The next game proved to be an uphill battle for the Wolves, as they fought Riverside-Brookfield during the Zeedyk Invite on Wednesday, Sept. 6. They took an early lead with a score by junior forward Oscar Campos, but allowed two late goals that turned the tide in favor of R-B.

The Wolves scored another win the following day in the Zeedyk Invite, against parochial powerhouse St. Ignatius, a 1-0 victory that left their record at 3-2.

Although he lamented the close losses, Ackman expressed confidence regarding his team's chance for success.

"We should be 5-0 but made some poor mistakes," Ackman said. "We will be ready by October for playoff time, and I expect us to do really well in state this year and in years to come with our great [young] talent."



Mahi Mameledzija tries a header against Lake Forest as Santos Reyes positions himself for a scoring opportunity.

Photo by Zander Macsai