

World Class Soccer in Lamorinda

By Kevin D. Shallat

For those of you who haven't heard, there is a women's amateur soccer team in Lamorinda and they are called the Lamorinda East Bay Power. The team played Sunday, June 17 against the Sonoma County Sol at Acalanes High School. The Power lost this game 3-2, but the fans were entertained with excellent soccer by both teams.

They have been around since 1988, but few people know about them. The team consists of players who have graduated high school to the post college graduate age.

The Power controlled the game throughout much of the first half. With the defenders being so active on the offensive end, they were able to keep the ball in the Sol's zone for much of the half. It didn't take long for midfielder Sarah Churchill to record a goal for the Power. Churchill's shot deflected off the Sol's goalkeeper and sailed into the net for 1-0 lead.

Defender Mimi Yuhas kept the pressure on the Sol during the first half by taking a number of good shots at the goal. One of her shots bounced off the right bar of the goal. The Sol fought back and scored before the end of the half to tie the game at one goal apiece.

The Power didn't take long to get the lead back after half. Fullback Stephanie Wieger lofted a beautiful pass to the other fullback Lauren Smith. Smith timed her kick perfectly and booted the ball into the right side of the goal, untouched.

The control and the lead would soon disappear, as the Sol came back with a vengeance. Power fullback Venus Williams had a nice rolling shot that just missed the left side of the goal. Unfortunately, the Power would not have many more opportunities to score the rest of the match, as their defense lacked the aggressiveness it had in the first half. "We played well, but we had too many individual defensive mistakes in the second half," said goalkeeper and Club Manager Katie Pittman.

The star for the Sol in this game was Annie Mablivio. She scored two times in the second half to give the Sol the lead for good.

Power Head Coach Ernesto Silva is very proud of the talent, not only on the Power, but in the entire league. "It would be nice to get the local community to realize that they have a chance to watch and support the best women's soccer program in the country, right in their backyard," said Silva.

Despite the increase in talent, there has been a decrease in financial support for the Lamorinda team. Silva goes on to say that this is the first year the women have had to pay their own way to play on the team. Without some financial backing, he is not sure whether the team can survive. Silva and the rest of the Lamorinda East Bay Power are asking for donations and your support.

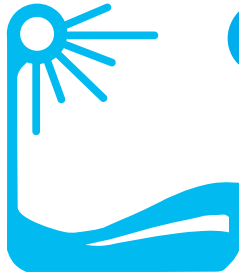


Long-time women's amateur soccer league takes on Sonoma County Sol at Acalanes

Photos by Andy Scheck



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