

## Saint Mary's Hosts Vermont in Fall Soccer Classic

By Kevin D. Shallat

The Saint Mary's women began their own tournament by taking on the Vermont Catamounts in the Fall Soccer Classic on Friday, Sept. 7, finishing tied, 1-1. Teams from Cal Berkeley and Cal State Bakersfield also participated in the event.

Forward Allie Wiener continued to be a big part of the Gaels offensive attack, netting the only goal for the Gaels in the 39th minute of play. Wiener scored on a beautiful pass by midfielder Marina Baham to give the Gaels a 1-0 edge heading into the half. "It was a good ball in by Marina, it was right on my foot and I just got lucky," Wiener said. But it was more than luck on the play. Although Vermont's goalie took a good leap at the ball, and was fully extended, it sailed untouched up into the far right hand corner of the goal.

Midfielder Jessica Menzhuber had another terrific game for the Gaels, taking the ball away from the offensive players with ease during the course of the game. Menzhuber also lofted beautiful touch passes to the wing throughout

the game.

As Menzhuber continues to lead and control the games for the Gaels, Wiener is stepping up as a fast scorer who can penetrate the defense near the goal. With their contrasting styles, Menzhuber and Wiener are becoming an exciting one-two punch for the Gaels.

Midfielder Stefani Rocco also made a number of good defensive stops around the Saint Mary's goal to prevent Vermont from scoring the go ahead goal. Midfielder Ashley Nied had a few nice shots as well: One of her shots was on its way into the top part of the goal before Vermont forward Alison Hemphill made a spectacular play to head the ball up and over their own goal to prevent the Gaels from taking a 2-1 advantage.

Goalkeeper Tara Larson was very active Friday night, with a number of good blocks. The most spectacular play of the game came on a succession of shots in the second half. Larson blocked one shot after another in the span of only a few seconds.



Allie Wiener (5) net the only Gaels goal

Photo Jordan Fong



Mercede Koning (9)

Photo Jordan Fong

The Catamounts came into the second half with renewed energy and were able to score on a shot that lofted up and over Larson to even up the score at 1-1. There were many more opportunities for

both teams to score, but after two over-times the game ended in a 1-1 tie.

Catch the next Gaels game by checking the schedule online at:

[www.SMCGaels.com](http://www.SMCGaels.com)