

1 Brian Mason; 2 Corey Heldreth; 3 Erik Robert; 4 Dylan Leslie; 5 Brian Siu; 7 David Blanchard; 9 Erik Rivas; 10 Bryan VanDoorninck; 12 Kyle Deremer; 17 Justin Kim; 18 Jordan Grider Photo Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's Men Hold Their Own Against #5 Santa Clara By Kevin D. Shallat

Fresh off their game against #21 Gonzaga, the Saint Mary's men's soccer team played host to #5 Santa Clara on Sunday, Oct. 14. With plenty at stake in this game, these inter-division rivals were playing for pride as well. Saint Mary's was able to keep Santa Clara scoreless in the second half, but the Broncos scored two goals in the first period, which was enough to win this game, 2-0.

At the sound of the opening whistle the Bronco's team speed was impressive. The Broncos had complete control of the ball for much of the opening period. Santa Clara scored in the opening minutes of the game, as Jamil Roberts took a pass from Matt Hatzke and sneaked a header in the right corner of the Gaels goal on a ball that was deflected off Saint Mary's goalkeeper, Keenan Flynn. Flynn made a good stop, but the ball took an unfortunate ricochet off his body and into

the side of the net. Between the difference in team speed, and the quick goal to start off the game, it was apparent that Saint Mary's would have their hands full.

The momentum would soon change, however, as something clicked for Saint Mary's with around 30 minutes left in the first half of play. From this point in the game until 14 minutes before the half, the Gaels dominated the possession and shots on goal. Although they didn't record a goal on the day, the Gaels had some great performances: Erik Robert did a great job throughout the game in setting up shots for his teammates. Justin Kim had a number of nice shots for the Gaels, as he led his team with four shots on goal. Flynn also had a nice game for the Gaels, despite the one play where he was called for tripping.

The Broncos were able to take advantage of the penalty kick

to record their second and final goal of the game. The penalty was called when Flynn came up to the top of the box to try and head off a play by Santa Clara, but found himself out of position, opening the way for an open shot on goal. Flynn's only recourse was to get in the way of the Bronco player and take the penalty call. This would be the final score of the game, as Flynn did a great job of shutting down the potent Bronco offense the rest of the game.

The game was very physical from start to finish, which is typical when the league games start. Each team had five fouls, including one yellow card against Santa Clara. Both teams also had an equal amount of shots, as each team with 10. However, Santa Clara was able to capitalize on their scoring opportunities, making their shots when it counted.

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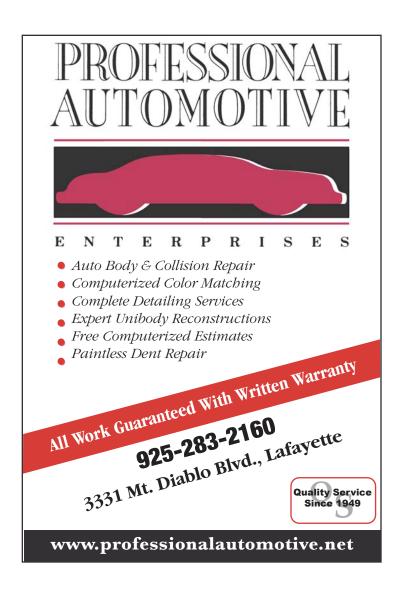
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