



MENDOCINO-LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

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EAGLES EXTEND UNBEATEN STREAK TO THREE GAMES

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On Tuesday the Mendocino College Eagles Women's Soccer Team played its fourth match in the last eight days. Tuesday's opponent was the visiting College of the Siskiyous Eagles. The match preceded the men's soccer match which followed later in the afternoon, also against Siskiyous.

Mendocino led 2-1 at half and 4-2 with 18 minutes to play in the match, looking to make it back-to-back wins after picking up the team's first win on the road at Reedley College on Monday.

At Reedley in the San Joaquin Valley, a 5-hour one-way drive from Ukiah, the Mendocino Eagles dominated, beating the host Reedley College Tigers 3-0, with two of the Eagle's sophomores leading the way offensively.

Mendocino took a 1-0 lead 20 minutes into that match when sophomore midfielder Emmylee Holt booted a ball into the Reedley net off an assist by Eagles sophomore striker Katalina Magdaleno. Later in the half, Holt went solo, scoring an unassisted goal to put the Eagles up 2-0.

Fourteen minutes into the second half, the two players reversed roles, with Holt assisting Magdaleno for the Eagles' third goal of the game. That proved to be more than enough, with the Eagles' defense shutting out the Tigers. The Eagles goalkeeper Tori Trum contributed 6 saves. That win evened the Eagles record at 1-1-1.

Playing Tuesday's match at home against Siskiyous, less than 24 hours after the long trek trip to Reedley, Mendocino played yet another strong first half against a very physical Siskiyous team. But the Eagles didn't shy away from the contact. They gave as well as they got.

Ten minutes into the match, Mendocino took a 1-0 lead when freshman midfielder Alexia Duran scored on a shot in front of the net off a right corner kick by Magdaleno. Siskiyous managed to tie the score with a goal 30 minutes into the half.

But Mendocino responded quickly. Attacking the Siskiyous goal two minutes later, Holt drew defenders and then sent a cross to Magdaleno to her right off the right corner of the 13-yard box. Displaying her strong leg, Magdaleno rocketed a shot into the left corner of the Siskiyous net, giving the Eagles a 2-1 lead.

Good work by the Eagles' defenders denied Siskiyous on two scoring attempts. Center back Britlynn Rodriguez made one especially fine play cutting off a Siskiyous run.



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Mendocino had a couple open kicks from long distance, plus a penalty kick but those shots were off target, leaving the score 2-1 at half.

Probably continuing to suffer from the lack of preseason conditioning and also adding the playing of two matches in two days, Mendocino was forced into playing most of the second half of Tuesday's match in their half of the field.

Siskiyou kept the pressure on, getting off multiple shots and finally connecting on one to tie the match 2-2 10 minutes into the half.

Getting few opportunities to venture into Siskiyou's half, Mendocino nonetheless capitalized on two of the times they were able to advance the ball to the other end of the field.

Seventeen minutes into the half, Magdaleno got open between Siskiyou defenders on the right side, about 35-yards out from the Siskiyou goal.

Wasting no time, she fired off line-drive shot that crossed the face of the Siskiyou keeper but above her reach, with the ball landing high up in left back of the net. Mendocino went back ahead 3-2.

Two minutes later, after more action in Mendocino's half, once again Mendocino made another rare tip into Siskiyou territory pay off.

Magdaleno penetrated the Siskiyou defense dribbling the ball to the right side of the 13-yard box. The Siskiyou keeper came out, but Magdaleno sent the ball past her to Holt near the right crossbar of the goal.

Another defender came over and ended up toppling over Holt but not before Holt had sent a shot past her into the net, giving Mendocino a 4-2 lead.

If Mendocino could have "held down the fort," so to speak, with 20 minutes still to play, they would have made it back-to-back wins.

But such was not to be. Siskiyou resumed their relentless attack on the Mendocino goal. Two minutes later and then six minutes after that, Siskiyou scored two goals to tie the score.

Each goal was scored by the same player, Taira Lucas, who also had an assist in the match. Each score was executed by Luca dribbling the ball to the right top corner of 13-yard box, with a defender playing her face up.

For each scoring shot, Luca did a reverse pivot to her left and took a shot with her left foot, sending the ball just inside the right crossbar of the goal and into the net.

With 12 minutes left to play, not only had the Mendocino lead evaporated, but, with Siskiyou continuing to pressure, it looked like Mendocino might be on the verge of losing the match.



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In the time remaining, Siskiyou did manage to get off a few more shots, some off the mark, a couple blocked and one saved by Mendocino. Also, one shot slammed off the crossbar of the goal.

Fortunately for Mendocino, Siskiyou was not able to score in the time remaining, with the match ending in a 4-4 draw.

Coach Torguson felt “We showed a lot of fight today. We ‘played for the shirt.’ (pride in wearing the Mendocino uniform and playing hard for the honor). It was maybe our best performance of the year so far, being up 4-2 with 13 minutes left in the game. We couldn’t finish it. Probably because of it being the second game in two days, plus the travel. But I’m certainly pleased with their effort.”

There was no practice scheduled on Wednesday and only a light practice on Thursday, giving the team a change to recover from back-to-back matches. The Eagles host Ohlone College on Friday. Start time is 4 p.m. The Eagles have only one match scheduled next week; vs. Shasta College at home, start time again, 4 p.m.