

## Young Tribe Soccer Team Falls to Methacton, Claims First Victory Against Pottstown

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Wednesday, 22 September 2010 14:15*



Upper Perk's Tyler Fisher kicks the ball away from a Methacton player during play in Monday's game at home.

Two late first-half goals broke a scoreless tie and paved the way for Methacton's 4-1 win over Upper Perkiomen's boys' soccer team in Tribe Stadium Monday.

The young Tribe squad battled the visitors to a stalemate until the Warriors' Anthony Santoleri found the back of the net behind keeper Matt Lorish (ten saves) with only 35.9 seconds remaining in the half.

Quickly, the Tribe doubled their trouble with some sloppy play in front of Lorish and Sean Aronow pumped home a rebound with less than 10 seconds remaining on the clock to send Methacton into the half with a 2-0 lead.

Indian forward Erich Keyser lamented the sudden turn of events. "At the end [of the half], we fell apart a little bit."

Early in the second half, Upper Perk missed a golden opportunity to get back in the game when Tyler Parkes and Keyser just missed connecting on a setup in front of the goal.

"We missed a few good opportunities. We had a couple of breakaways and a couple of crosses to put in," said Tribe coach Eric Bedford. "It could have been a completely different game if we finish a couple of those balls."

Methacton pressed its advantage keeping the Tribe pinned in its own end. DoYoung Kwak hit the post in the 52nd minute and shortly thereafter Santoleri bounced one off the crossbar.

The Warriors finally cashed in at 59:51 when Matt Ahlberg headed the ball into the lower left corner for a 3-0 lead.

Parkes broke up the shutout bid in the 71st minute with his first goal of the year, finding the net behind keeper Scott Markle (six saves) after a set-up by Keyser.

"It was a good through ball," Parkes recounted. "He kept it in somehow, and it went off the keeper's hands. It was on a platter for me."

Matt Skelley closed the scoring for the day with Methacton's final goal with just under four minutes remaining.

Upper Perk's Bedford was philosophical. "We're very young and it's tough. This team we played is a very good team, and they just proved to be a little too much."

Bedford is taking a patient approach this fall, looking for small improvements game by game. "Our defense is starting to develop a little bit more. Midfield is where we're very young. They're starting to pick it up."

Parkes, one of only four seniors on the team, sees the potential. "I wish I could be with them. These upcoming years we're going to be a lot better team."

"I'm looking forward to the next few games," said Bedford, in his third year at the helm. "Let's see what we do."

Two of the younger players figured in the Tribe's first PAC-10 win in two years last week against Pottstown. Freshman Elijah Bartholomew and sophomore John McHale sandwiched goals around senior Zach Winkler's tally in a 3-2 triumph.

The Tribe entered that game against Pottstown still looking for their first win of the season, but when the Trojans' Edwin Hernandez scored just six minutes into the contest, the Indians found themselves in all-too-familiar territory behind 1-0.

But the Tribe got exactly what they needed as, four minutes into the second half, Upper Perkiomen's Bartholomew found the back of the net and tied the score at 1-1.

Later Upper Perk continued to ride their momentum with goals by Zach Winkler and John McHale.

Good defense by goal keeper Delong on two different Pottstown drives protected the Tribe's two-goal lead. Upper Perk went on to claim their first victory of the season.

"Tyler's been very strong for us all year," said Bedford. "He's been making plays like that for us for a long time. Stopping their striker on that potential breakaway was a very important play."

"We're a young team," he continued. "We need some time to develop. The players have a never-give-up attitude and I know our upper classmen will continue to push our young players. We get a little better every time out we just need a few bounces to go our way."

The team's next home game is Friday at 4 p.m. against Boyertown. They will play again Monday against Perk Valley.