

Ladue's Bench Leads the Way Against Principia 5 of 6 Goals From Subs as Ladue Wins 6-0



Ladue executes a corner kick play against Principia.

Overview

The Rams displayed their depth and utilized a number of firsts to earn a nice 6-0 win against #4 seed Principia in semifinal district play. Ladue's subs really came to play as 5 of the 6 goals and 4 of the 6 assists came from players off the bench in the victory! The Rams also broke their first half scoring curse as they scored their first first half goal of the season. On top of that, Ladue scored not once, but twice on corner kick plays, their first corner kick

goals of the year! In the end, it was a wonderful performance all around for Ladue as they advance to play Clayton in the district final on Tuesday.

The Curses Are Broken!

The running theme all year has been that the Rams simply don't know how to score in the first half. Furthermore, the Rams had yet to score on a corner kick. It hasn't been for lack of effort. Ladue has had some really good first halves and corner plays, but have run into bad luck and good goalkeeping throughout the season. At times it has felt like there's been a lid over the goal! However, the team broke both curses against the Principia Panthers. Dylan Melnick served the ball nicely to the far post where Greyson Watkins beat his defender to tap the cross into the net. Just like that, both curses were broken! The Rams looked to add to their lead but had a number of shots go over the goal and the score remained 1-0 going into halftime.

Unleash the Bench!

Ladue didn't feel safe with a 1 goal lead against a well organized Principia team who were just a counter attack or set piece away from tying the game. The team pushed for more in the second half but were frustrated by the methodical play of the Panthers. Looking for a spark, coach Dave Aronberg turned to the bench to see if they could bring some energy to the game. They didn't disappoint and quickly put the game out of reach. Jackson Diggs led the charge and immediately made an impact when he got into the game. Midfielder Greyson Watkins made a perfect diagonal ball over the top of the defense to Diggs who had timed his run perfectly to get behind the defense and headed the cross over the onrushing goalie into the goal. Diggs wasn't done though. A few minutes later, he picked up a loose ball headed into the box by Alex Orywall, and slotted a ball by the keeper off the inside of the post and into the net to make it 3-0 Ladue. Another sub, Michael Workineh, extended the lead further off a great free kick from Robbie Mabbs, when he one touched the cross by the keeper to make it 4-0. Alex Orywall scored the 5th goal for the Rams on a corner kick crossed in by Workineh. Finally, Jason Ding finished a mini breakaway from a great through ball by Connor Krell to make it 6-0. All five goals came from the bench in the second half as Ladue showed just how deep they are.



Players of the Game: Workineh, Diggs and Watkins

[Ladue vs. Principia Photo Gallery](#)

Ladue Dominant in Win Over Parkway Central

Two Second Half Goals Difference in 2-0 Win



Grant Gorman plays a perfect through ball against Parkway Central.

Overview

The Rams played their last game of the year against rival Parkway Central, a team that Ladue has had quite a history against over the years. Parkway Central has had the upper hand recently in playoff meetings between the two schools with the last meeting an epic 5-4 overtime thriller won by the Colts. The Rams returned for the first time to the scene of the crime to take on Parkway Central, a team who always plays tough, disciplined soccer. Ladue played the role of spoiler on this night though as they displayed great ball movement en route to winning on Parkway Central's senior night.

A Wonderful Display of Soccer With Same Result

As has been noted multiple times, Ladue had yet to score in the first half this entire season. Ladue looked to change that against Parkway Central and put them under immediate pressure. The Rams moved the ball around wonderfully with great up back throughs, overlaps, and diagonal penetrating passes. However, the result was still the same. While the team generated a ton of scoring chances, they still found themselves tied at halftime 0-0.

Grayson Francis Takes Over

The second half was more of the same from the Rams, but forward Grayson Francis refused to be shut out any longer. Less than five minutes into the half, Francis won a 50/50 battle at midfield and played the ball to himself into space behind the Parkway Central defense. With a defender on his hip, Francis unleashed a hard, low shot to the far post that the goalie parried away wide. Jahan Robinson had smartly joined the play though and buried the rebound into the open net to make it 1-0 Ladue. Ten minutes later, Francis struck again. This time he received a through ball from Grant Gorman that sent him in behind the Central defense once again. Just like before, Francis rocketed a low shot to the far post. However, this time the Central keeper couldn't stop the shot which went under his diving outstretched arm to make it 2-0 Ladue. From that point forward, Ladue looked to increase their lead and had great looks with which to do so, but some solid work by the Parkway Central keeper kept Ladue from really pulling away with the game. All in all, it was a really solid performance from the boys and one that should give them confidence heading into district play next.



Players of the Game: Gorman, Francis and Robinson

[Ladue vs. Parkway Central Photo Gallery](#)

Robinson's Two Second Half Goals Wins the Day Ladue Comes Back Once Again To Win 2-1



Teammates congratulate Jahan Robinson on his game winning goal against Westminster.

Overview

The story line isn't getting old, but it sure is repetitive. For the seventh straight game, Ladue failed to score in the first half. Down 1-0 at half, the Rams had the belief that they could come back though. They'd done it many times before this season, and were successful against Westminster too. Jahan Robinson bookended the second half with a goal in the first two minutes and last two minutes to lead Ladue to defeat Westminster 2-1.

Deserved Better

Ladue played arguably one of their best halves of the season in the first half against Westminster. However, Westminster's goalie made some key saves and a missed offside call led to a Wildcat goal midway through the half. Still the coaching staff believed that if the Rams continued to play their game they'd find a way to comeback in the game.

Rams Find Their Scoring Touch

It didn't take long for the Rams to figure out that they were in the second half and allowed to score. Less than two minutes into the half, Jahan Robinson tied the game off a set piece service from Greyson Watkins. Watkins played the ball from the defensive side of half all the way to the 18. The ball found Robinson's foot, who, in one quick motion, pinged a shot low into the corner to make it 1-1. From there Ladue's belief only grew. The Rams pressed for the second goal and did a great job of keeping Westminster pinned in their half for the majority of the half. On the few occasions that Westminster did create chances, goalie Danny Fischer had the answer with a couple of timely saves. The backline of Garland, Korn, Hardester, and Kirby also worked together well to snuff out chances. Finally, with less than two minutes left in the game, Robinson struck again with the game winner. The play with some great work by Grayson Francis to win a 50/50 ball at midfield to JT Krell. Krell used a change of pace move to gain the endline and played an amazing sliding low left footed cross to Robinson who had made a run in front of a Westminster defender. In a blink, Robinson roofed a one time shot over the keeper to make it 2-1 Ladue. The Rams salted out the final minute plus of the game to win their fourth game in a row in exciting fashion!



Players of the Game: Gorman, JT Krell and Hardester

[Ladue vs. Westminster Photo Gallery](#)

Rams Win Late 2-0 Against Rival Clayton

2 Goals in Last 5 Minutes of Game the Difference



Jackson Diggs runs down a ball against Clayton.

Overview

One of the strengths of the 2020 edition of the Ladue Rams soccer team is their amazing senior class. The team boasts 15 seniors, easily the most in recent Ladue soccer history, who have all played a role in some sort or another in the program's success. This group is also special since the vast majority of them began as members of the inaugural C Team at Ladue in 2017. It's been amazing to see their growth over the years! To add to the excitement, Ladue took on their rival Clayton in the game. If you couldn't get excited for this game, you should get your pulse checked!

Seniors Dominate the First Half

The toughest task of the day was making sure that all 15 seniors got a chance to strut their stuff on the field in the game! The coaching staff decided that the best approach to the game would be to exclusively play the seniors in the first half and then get back into the normal rotation in the second half. While this approach put some seniors in unfamiliar spots, it did allow for each senior to get a lot of playing time in a game meant to honor them! The seniors didn't disappoint in the half and played their hearts out. It was a very evenly played half with both teams producing good scoring opportunities. In the end though, the Rams continued their scoreless first half streak. Through 6 games now, Ladue hasn't scored a first half goal! That's quite an amazing streak. One that hopefully the team ends soon!

2nd Half Team

Ladue really went to work in the second half. Having the confidence that they'd outscored their opponents 6-1 in the second half, the Rams played with confidence and poise. Back to their regular starter rotations, players found themselves in more comfortable roles. With every passing minute, you could see the Rams start to take over the game. Finally with less than five minutes left in the half, the dam broke. Grant Gorman played a ball diagonally over the top to JT Krell. Krell battled off a Greyhound defender in the box and unleashed a shot with a ton of pace that deflected off the defender and past the diving Clayton goalie. Up 1 goal, the Rams kept pushing. Krell almost added to the lead less than a minute later when he received a perfect cross from Dylan Stern in front of the goal, but unfortunately headed it wide. No worries though, Stern made his presence felt minutes later when he slotted a perfect through ball to Dylan Melnick who clinically finished his breakaway to seal Clayton's fate at 2-0. It was a great way to celebrate the seniors with a win over their rivals!



Players of the Game: Koon, Fischer and JT Krell

[Ladue vs. Clayton Photo Gallery](#)

Comeback Kids Strike Again in 2-1 OT Win

Robinson Nets Both Goals In Win Over Eureka



Jahan Robinson skies to win a header in the double overtime victory over Eureka.

Overview

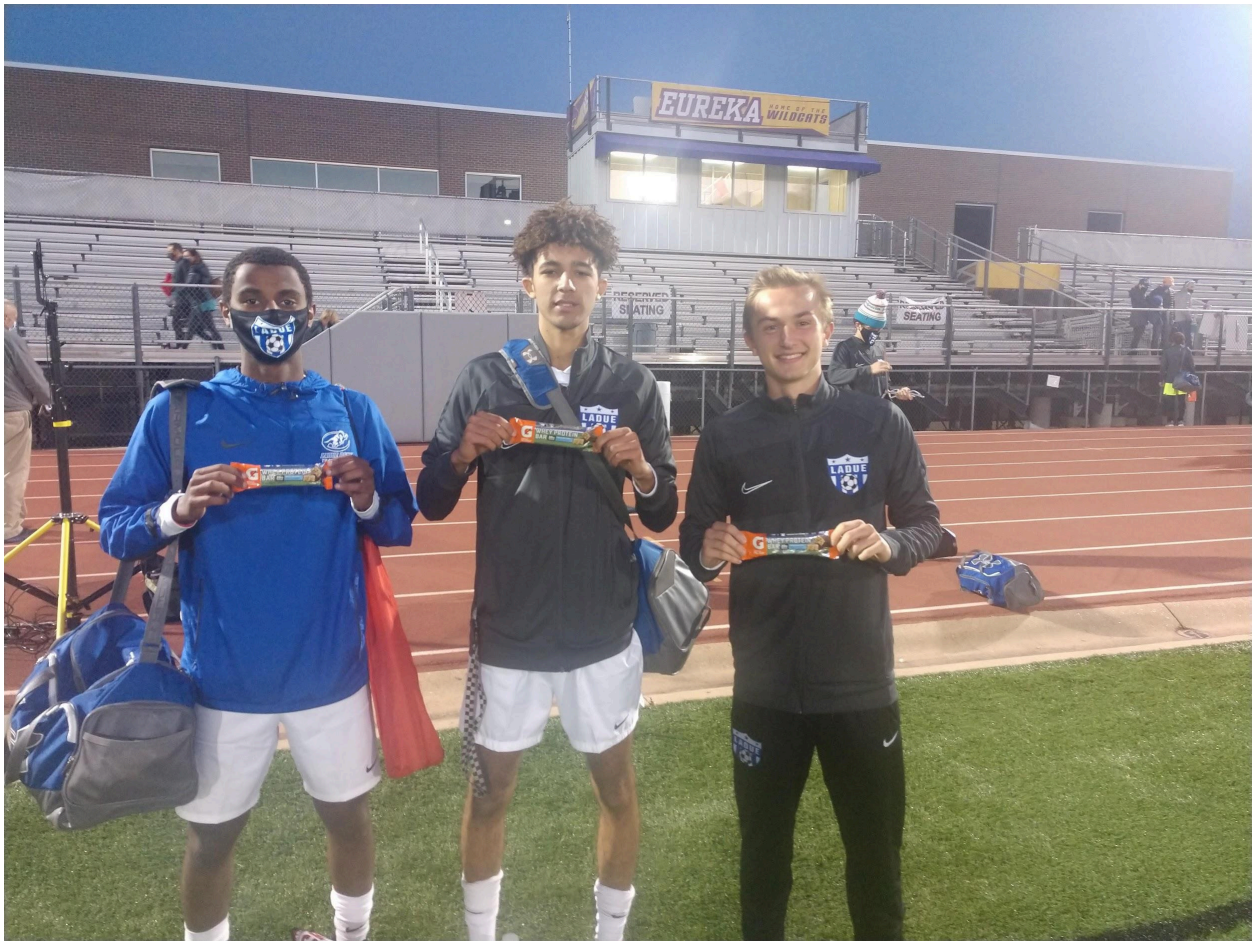
One thing that has eluded the Rams so far this season is a first half goal. In 4 games, the Rams have been outscored 5-0 in the first half, but have outscored the opposition 5-1 in the second half! Eureka proved to be more of the same story as the Rams dug themselves an early hole with some help from the refs again (which also seems to be a theme this year). However, this team doesn't know the meaning of quit and stormed back once again in the second half to tie and then won the game in double ot!

Sloppy Start

The first 11 minutes of the game were probably the worst 11 minutes of soccer from Ladue this season. The Rams couldn't connect a pass and literally only advanced the ball past midfield twice in that span. Defending for long stretches at a time usually spells disaster for a team, and this game was no different. The backline of defense was called upon repeatedly to snuff out offensive chances by a spirited Eureka team. Eventually the pressure broke the Rams defense with some help from the refs. Greyson Watkins defended a Eureka forward in the box and shielded him off the ball. The assistant ref believed this shield to be too aggressive and called the Rams for a penalty. Eureka buried the penalty kick and went up 1-0. The Rams found their footing as the half wore on and had belief that if they could come back from down 3-0 like yesterday, being down 1-0 wouldn't be too tall a task.

Robinson Rises to the Occasion

Jahan Robinson put the team on his back to lead the comeback charge in the second half. Ladue effectively put the Wildcat defense under a ton of pressure with through balls to their fast forwards of Robinson, Francis and Krell. Eventually this pressure led to fouls and the Rams capitalized on a free kick. Michael Workineh played a ball into the box that found Jahan Robinson's foot who kicked in the tying goal with 18 minutes left in the half. From there, the Rams continued to push. While the team didn't find the winning goal in the second half or first overtime, it only took 30 seconds into the second overtime to end the game. Grayson Francis played a nice 1-2 with Robinson who took a touch past a defender and found an opening 30 yards from goal. Robinson unleashed a rocket of a shot past a diving goalie that ended the game!



Players of the Game: Workineh, Robinson and Orywall

[Ladue vs. Eureka Photo Gallery](#)

Resilient Rams Wake Up in Second Half

Ladue Comes Back With 4 Goals to Win 4-3



Grayson Francis blows by a Kirkwood defender en route to setting up the game winning goal.

Overview

Ladue has had some pretty amazing comebacks in their history. One that stands out is a sectional game where the Rams came back from down 4-0 at half to tie the game in the 2nd half. Unfortunately, that comeback was soured by the fact that ultimately the Rams lost 5-4 in overtime. Against Kirkwood however, the Rams had every bit as exciting a comeback that was capped by a win in regulation! It was the kind of game that turns a season around and might create some momentum moving forward.

Rams and Ref Miscues Dig Ladue A Hole

Kirkwood came in as a tough top ten team. Already 4-1 on the season, with their only loss against Webster, the Pioneers would prove to be a tough opponent. That task became tougher when the Rams gifted Kirkwood a goal three minutes into the contest. As Ladue tried to build out of the back, the Rams errantly passed directly to a Kirkwood forward who walked the ball into the open net to put the Pioneers on top 1-0. The Rams brushed off this setback though and played one of their best halves of the season. They were working the ball around beautifully and creating chances on the offensive end. However, sometimes soccer can be a cruel sport. Even with such good play, Ladue wasn't rewarded. In fact, the Rams were punished by two extremely frustrating missed calls by the refs that directly led to two more Kirkwood goals. On the first play, center back Jacob Korn was in the act of playing a ball back to keeper Danny Fischer when a Kirkwood forward blatantly swiped his feet out from under him. Korn fell to the ground with no call and the Kirkwood forward walked in alone and scored on the breakaway. How the assistant ref and center ref missed that call was baffling! To make matters worse, late in the half with under 3 minutes to play, defenseman Gunnar Koon shielded a through ball to allow goalie Danny Fischer to pick it up. While shielding he made shoulder to shoulder contact with a Kirkwood player. The ref cynically called a penalty kick against the Rams that the Pioneers buried to make the score 3-0 going into halftime.

What Belief!

It would've been easy for the Rams to pout after having such bad luck in the first half and give up, but that's not what this 2020 team is about! The coaching staff preached winning the half and taking it one goal at a time and that's exactly what the Rams did. Grayson Francis got the comeback started 15 minutes into the second half. He played a crafty through ball into the box to Jahan Robinson who had spun off behind a defender. Robinson unleashed a near post blast that clanged off the post and rebounded directly to Dylan Melnick who followed the play up nicely. Just like that, the Rams were on the scoreboard and smelled blood in the water. Minutes later, Grayson Francis once again asserted himself in the play to set up the second goal. It started with a Hayden Zych free

kick that was partially cleared by the Kirkwood defense to the top of the box. Francis picked up the clearance and set the ball diagonally across the box to Greyson Watkins who found himself all alone from six yards out and buried his shot to make it 3-2 Kirkwood. Lady luck played a little role in the comeback too as the Pioneers made a charge to add to their lead. Their forward found a sliver of space in the box and toe poked a cross past Fischer but thankfully, the ball clanged off the crossbar to keep the score 3-2. With the momentum still on their side, the Rams continued to charge ahead. As the minutes ticked away though, it looked like time might expire before the comeback could be complete. Once again though, Francis provided the spark. JT Krell got to a beautifully driven diagonal through ball by Watkins and played a hard ball low across the top of the box. Midfielder Robbie Mabbs deflected the cross to Francis who took a touch and then placed a perfect shot into the side netting while falling backwards to tie the game with 7 minutes remaining! The only thing left to do was win the game now! Who else but Francis would make that a reality! Kirkwood earned a free kick with about 30 seconds to play and sent a ball into Ladue's box. The Rams defense defended it well and cleared the ball down the field. Francis charged out of nowhere and beat a Pioneer defender to the ball to set up a long breakaway! With the goalie off his line, Francis sent a low hard shot towards the far post. The Pioneer goalie made a diving save, but parried the rebound back out. That's where Dylan Stern, who had made a 80 yard run to follow up the play ended things. He collected the rebound and sent it into the empty net to give the Rams the lead with 18 seconds remaining! It was an amazing comeback against a top level team that will go down as one of the best ever!



Players of the Game: Francis, Watkins and Stern

[Ladue vs. Kirkwood Photo Gallery](#)

Ladue Loses To Talented Lindbergh Squad

Flyers Show Their Class in 3-1 Game



Jack Kirby looks to throw the ball in against Lindbergh.

Overview

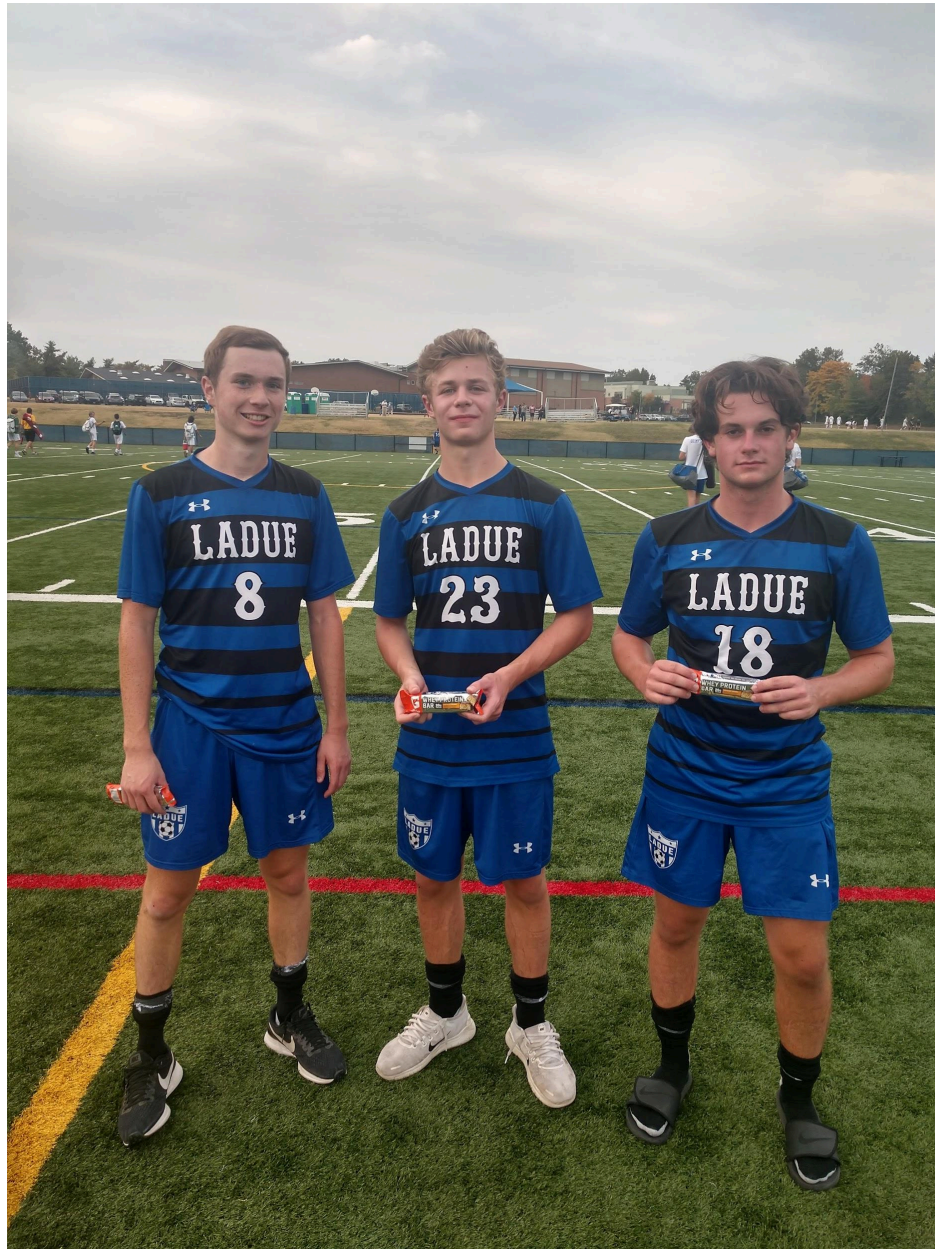
After sustaining a tough luck overtime loss to Rockwood Summit, Ladue had to turn around and play class 4 state semifinalist Lindbergh. Lindbergh boasted a bevy of skilled players who absolutely showed their class in the victory. Still Ladue hung tough, but in the end couldn't keep up with the high powered Flyers attack and lost 3-1.

Capitalizing on Mistakes

Great teams capitalize on the other team's mistakes and that's exactly what the Lindbergh Flyers did against the Rams. In the first ten minutes of the game, the refs incorrectly gave Lindbergh a corner kick on a ball that they had actually headed out of bounds. The Flyers sent the ensuing corner into the box that was headed accidentally out of bounds by a Ladue defender giving Lindbergh a second crack at a corner. This time they didn't miss. A Flyer forward skied for the ball and sent his header past goalie Danny Fischer to make it 1-0 Lindbergh. The Rams responded with some decent possession and play but Lindbergh's composed backs and midfield kept the Rams offense at bay. Late in the half, the Flyers capitalized again on a Ladue defending mistake. Their winger gained the endline and played a beautiful cross into the box. Their center forward had made a crafty run to a dangerous location in the box. The Rams had defenders back in the box but they weren't marked tight to the Flyers forwards, which resulted in a free header that found the back of the net. Ladue found itself down 2-0 going into half.

Never Gave Up

In a two goal game, the third goal typically decides the outcome. If the team that is down scores it, it's game on. If the winning team knocks home a third goal, that's typically game over. Lindbergh effectively put the game to rest early in the half on some amazing passing that led to a perfect through ball to an onrushing winger who got in on a breakaway. Fischer wasn't able to stop this breakaway like he had done to bail out the defense in the two previous games and the Rams found themselves down 3-0. Still, Ladue continued to play hard and started to create chances of their own. Late in the half, Colby Brandt played a through ball behind the Flyer defense. The defender tried to shield forward Grayson Francis from the ball to allow the goalie to get it, but Francis out hustled both players and poked the ball past the goalie, walking it into the open net. Ladue had finally cracked the Lindbergh defense, but it was too little, too late. Lindbergh ended up winning the game 3-1.



Players of the Game: Kirby, JT Krell and Brandt

[Ladue vs. Lindbergh Photo Gallery](#)

Rams Go Toe to Toe With State Champs

Missed Call Downs Ladue 1-0 in Overtime



Colby Brandt surveys the field in the game against Summit.

Overview

The schedule does the Rams no favors in 2020. On top of having to find their game quickly with only a 9 game schedule, each game features a top team. There aren't any easy games to be found! After beating perennial power CBC, Ladue went on the road to take on the defending class 3 state champions, Rockwood Summit. Summit is always extremely talented and their 2020 team was no different. The boys didn't shy away from the challenge though and played toe to toe with the Falcons. Unfortunately a bad missed call in overtime determined the outcome as Ladue lost 1-0.

Fischer to the Rescue

The Rams spent the majority of the first half defending as Summit moved the ball around the field well. However, the Rams defense held firm and kept Summit's offense mostly from dangerous chances with one exception. The Falcons did send a crafty through ball that found a streaking wing forward towards the net on a breakaway. Just like he did against CBC a game earlier, goalie Danny Fischer played the breakaway perfectly and snuffed out the chance, keeping the score 0-0 at half.

Ref Leaves His Mark

It's unfortunate when a referee's decision directly leads to the outcome of a game, but that's what ultimately happened in the game. After a spirited 2nd half where both teams played back and forth and produced a handful of chances, the game went to overtime. Ladue had a good chance to win it when Grayson Francis broke free on a semi breakaway. He unleashed a shot that the goalie made a diving save on and gobbled up the rebound to keep Ladue off the scoreboard. Soon after, Summit earned a free kick from around midfield. The Falcons lofted a ball into the box that goalie Danny Fischer smartly came out for and got both hands on. However, a Summit forward charged directly into Fischer when he had both hands on the ball, knocking him to the ground, and jarring the ball loose. It should've been an easy call to make, and one that is made 99/100 times. However, this was the one time it wasn't called. In the ensuing chaos of the ball bouncing around, Summit was able to poke a shot off the near post and into the goal to win it. It was a frustrating end to what was a very well played game by both teams.



Players of the Game: Korn, Hardester and Garland

[Ladue vs. Summit Photo Gallery](#)

Ladue Starts Season With a Bang

1-0 Victory Over CBC the first in at least 20 Years



Jahan Robinson surveys the field before hitting his game winning shot.

Overview

The Ladue Rams had a tough first test to start their season when they faced off against perennial powerhouse CBC. It's odd waiting until October 1st to play your first game of the season, but nothing is really normal in the Covid world that we live in. The Rams dealt well with the adversity though and came up with a very workmanlike effort that led them to victory.

Stout Defending

The first half highlighted good defending from both sides as neither the Cadets nor the Rams ever really broke through their opponents defensive lines to create dangerous chances. The best chance in the half came off a corner kick for the Rams less than 10 minutes into the game. Sophomore Robbie Mabbs served a beautiful ball to the back post that Dylan Melnick blasted off his head and off the crossbar from about 8 yards out. Had the shot been two inches lower it would've been a goal. Besides that, the game was played mostly in the middle third of the field with neither team gaining too much territorial advantage.

Momentum Swing

The deciding play of the day occurred about 7 minutes into the second half. A rare miscue from Ladue's backline set up a 40 yard breakaway from a Cadet forward. In all alone against goalie Danny Fischer, it looked like a sure goal. However, Fischer took an aggressive line and then outwaited the forward. Eventually the forward tried to dribble around Fischer but he dove on the ball and smothered it without even giving up a shot. From that point on the momentum swung totally in Ladue's favor. The Rams scored less than two minutes later when Grant Garland played a superb diagonal ball to an onrushing Jahan Robinson. Robinson won the 50/50 ball with the defender, turned and unleashed a deadly left footed volley past the keeper. Then Ladue's defense took the game over. The back line of Garland, Korn, Alex, Stern, Kirby and Hardester held the Cadet offense at bay throughout the half. When Fischer was forced to make a save he did, and he was excellent coming off his line. Ultimately, the team held on to the 1-0 victory which was a great start to the season!



Players of the Game: Melnick, Watkins and Fischer

[Ladue vs. CBC Photo Gallery](#)