

U13 Amherst Argonauts win Niagara Pioneer tourney

The U13 Amherst Argonauts won the Niagara Pioneer Soccer Tournament at Fort Niagara State Park on July 7-8.

The team displayed a great combination of stout defense, skilled play, exhausting effort and stellar goal-tending by Luke Service as they went undefeated in four games to claim the championship. Jake Dadswell was named tournament MVP.

The Argonauts' first opponent was the Irondequoit Flash which could not keep up with the talented and Argonauts. Irondequoit managed only four shots on goal.

Dadswell started the scoring in the 26th minute, using a tipped pass from Alex Vienne to break through two players and send a left-footed shot through the far left side past the Flash goalie.

It was 12 minutes later that Evan Lang used his speed to dribble past three Irondequoit defenders and sent a low curving shot past a dumfounded Flash goalie. The play was started by a precise throw-in by Alex Miller, who was part of the suffocating defensive team, up to Alex Quinlivan, who found Lang open on the other side of the field.



The U13 Amherst Argonauts won the Niagara Pioneer Soccer Tournament held July 7-8. Members of the team, pictured from left, are: Alex Kuvinshoff, Alex Quinlivan, Alex Vienne, Christian Jones, Steve Weinheimer, Matt Krajacic, Jake Dadswell, Tim Balkin, Jamie Floss, Luke Service, Evan Lang, James Sweeney, David Arthur, John White, and coach Dave Grant; missing from photo - Alex Miller and assistant coach Mike Arthur.

The Darlington Fusion, a team from Ontario, Canada, was the Argonauts' next opponent. The outcome was familiar as the Argonauts took the second game, 2-0.

The game was very physical and the first half showed excellent stops by the Fusion goalie and the Argos' Service, who tipped a rising shot over the net to preserve a scoreless halftime tie.

It was in the 42nd minute that Dadswell drilled an 18-yard shot past

the goalie. The setup was initiated by John White in the defensive end after Jamie Floss and Christian Jones blocked two successive shots by Fusion forwards. Tim Balkin took the initial pass and sent Dadswell on a run through the midfield zone on his way to scoring.

Miller, Matt Krajacic and Steve Weinheimer used a dazzling set of soccer skills to find an open David Arthur on the left side, who in turn

laced a high shot to the goalie's left in the 60th minute to secure the win.

The Greece Buccaneers were the next team to realize that speed and soccer skill against Alex Kuvinshoff, Alex Vienne in the offensive zone, and James Sweeney, John White and Jamie Floss in the defensive zone, were not going to be a combination for success against the Argonauts. This was realized in Amherst's 3-1 win which included goals by Lang, Dadswell, and Arthur.

Krajacic and Balkin continued their stellar tournament play with effective transition play while Sweeney let no Buccaneer past him. The second goal was a highlight to see as pinpoint passing set up a Dadswell goal. It started deep in the Argos end by White, who in turn passed to Jones, then up to Krajacic who saw Dadswell pushing past three Buccaneer defenders to send a left-footed shot past an outstretched Greece goalie. The win set up the championship game against the Brockport Blizzard.

The championship game started quick for the Amherst team as Lang used a Weinheimer crossing pass to run through a defender after he was

taken off the ball to make the score 1-0 in the fourth minute. Krajacic and Arthur found Lang open again on the left side to give Amherst a two-goal lead five minutes later.

Brockport scored only two minutes later on a ten-yard crossing shot, and tied it six minutes later on a penalty kick. Amherst was determined to make quick amends as four minutes later a goal kick by Service was picked up on one bounce by Dadswell, who ran past two defenders to drill a left foot shot in the upper left hand corner.

The 3-2 halftime score led to Amherst controlling play for much of the second half. However, a couple of close chances were foiled by Floss and Arthur eventually found Dadswell cutting to his right and sent a shot over the right shoulder of the Blizzard goalie.

In the 60th minute, Alex Quinlivan sent a 20-yard shot in the upper left hand corner after a quick pass back from Vienne to make the final 5-2 for the Amherst Argonauts.

The full team effort showed in this game as Brockport sent only four outside shots to the Amherst net in the final ten minutes.

Rovers U12 edge Lightning, 2-1

The Amherst Rovers U12 travel soccer team defeated the Lockport Lightning, 2-1, on July 2.

Joy Thompson scored early for Amherst, fully connecting on a crossing pass and sending it into the top of the net.

Lockport answered with some extended pressure, but Amherst's defense did not let them have any good shots. Allie Troncone scored Amherst's second goal midway through the second half on a penalty kick. The Lockport goalie got her hands on the ball, but it was too hard to handle and rolled off her fingers into the middle left side of the net. The insurance goal was needed, as Lockport scored shortly thereafter.

At the end of the game, Lockport tried desperately for the tying goal, but Colleen Steley owned the front of the net, making several plays as last defenseman back and blasting it up the field out of danger. It was an important win for Amherst, moving them within two points of first-place Lockport and earning them the tiebreaker.

Mia Lafomaya was involved in both of Amherst's goals, sending the crossing pass on the first and drawing the penalty that led to the second. She also kept coming back after getting hurt. Audrey Parenti almost scored a goal when she headed a plummeting ball toward the net, but the goalie grabbed it just as it was crossing the goal line. She also had a couple other shots on net.

Julia Netwon was everywhere defensively on the left side in the second half, rejecting passes and shots back to midfield and disrupting attackers trying to get in close.

Chelsea Stachura was a physical presence at midfield as she stuffed a shot right in front of Amherst's net. Courtney Sugarman also proved difficult for Lockport to get past near midfield and intercepted a pass that would have been a breakaway. Kali James knocked the ball down with her body and sent it back the other way. Julia Struble was solid in net, coming out to break up several dangerous plays and making a jumping save on a high shot that looked like a sure goal.

It took five Lockport players to get the ball away from Meredith Parenti and cost them valuable time as Amherst was trying to run out the clock.

Revolution break Hearts, Destroyers

The Amherst Revolution U-12 Girls Soccer Club has been turning the heads of its older opponents while breaking many hearts this season. Amherst is currently 7-2 in the U-13 "A" division.

For the past two weeks, unselfish teamwork helped the Revolution overcome its opponents, the Tonawanda Hearts and the Akron Destroyers. The Revolution beat Tonawanda, 4-0, and Akron, 6-1.

Amherst put on passing clinics against the Hearts and Destroyers, who tried hard but couldn't keep up with the Revolution girls.

Playing their usual strong games were Carissima Cutrona, Alicia Girard, Kaitlyn Neese, Sara Eichhorn, Alyssa Cartwright, Hannah Dreger and Cathryn Mahon. Goalkeepers Christine Murphy and Francesca Carra did not face many shots but when they did, Murphy and Carra were outstanding, earning a well-deserved shutout and letting in only one goal against the Destroyers.

Coming off a bye week, the Revolution looked a little rusty early on against Tonawanda. Amherst kept shooting the ball wide or high but not past the Tonawanda goalkeeper. That changed when Shannon Doherty found the back of the net with a pinpoint shot from about 23 yards halfway through the first half.

Tonawanda did not give up as the Revolution

played keep away. When a Tonawanda girl challenged for the ball, the Revolution player side stepped her opponent or neatly passed to an open teammate.

Even with all the dominant play, the Revolution left the field at halftime ahead, 1-0. In the second half, the keep away game continued but the shooting became straighter for the Revolution.

Margaux Gill's perfect crossing pass from the right side to the left found Kaitlin Walsh a willing recipient. Walsh wasted no time in finishing the play, making it 2-0. Minutes later, Courtney Kramer replayed Gill's cross pass but from left to right, again finding Walsh for another perfect shot and goal. Walsh made a hat trick with a pretty left footer.

Against the Destroyers, Morgaine Houston knocked in her first goal of the year with a beautiful left footer. Nika Berrafato chipped in the second goal after getting the rebound of Annie Garcia's shot, which hit the goal post. Garcia didn't quit and was rewarded with a goal, making it 3-0. Katie Cohen deposited a wonderful redirect of a Gill crossing pass. Gill closed the Revolution scoring with two goals on breakaways.

The Akron girls showed no quit as they continued to press the Revolution defense, finally putting a late goal in the back of the net.



NIAGARA PIONEER CHAMPS- The Amherst Flyers boys travel soccer team took first place this weekend in the U16 Niagara Division in the Niagara Pioneer International Tournament at Fort Niagara. The Flyers defeated West Seneca, 4-1, for the championship. C.J. Scirto scored twice and Frankie Kulczycki and Kevin Castine each had single tallies. Members of the team, pictured from left, are: front row - Travis Lang and Brian Doherty; second row - Fernando Recio, Eric Bellinger, Zack Schwartz, Brett Lanham, C.J. Scirto, R.J. Grampp, Kevin Castine, Chris Toone; third row - Steve Willert, Frankie Kulczcki, Alex Manzella, Mike Thielman, Ryan Dobos, Justin Floss, Jim Nesper; standing - assistant coach John Dobos and coach Jeff Floss.



CLOSE TOURNAMENT FINAL - Feyenoord Amherst defeated Amherst Barcelona, 3-2, in a shootout to win the Odenbach Tournament in West Seneca. Both are U9 travel teams with the Amherst Soccer Association. Members, pictured from left, are: first row - Jacob Siegle, Rory Scott, Jeff Bellinger,

Noah Smith, Leo Galbo, Jason Librock, Sam Kinerk, Robbie Schapp, Jared Cummins; second row - Collin Browning, Griffin Ingerson, Jack Tamburlin, Noah Bachwitz, Nasir Dara, Dylan Moeser, Andrew Looney, Andrew Spitznogle, Ben Noel; third row - coaches Casey Smith, Jay Ingerson and Scott Kinerk.