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## Rockets come away with win against Little Giants

*BY KEVIN SHIELDS*  
*News-Messenger correspondent*

OAK HARBOR -- It wasn't the effort Oak Harbor girls soccer coach Renee Goldstein was looking for, but she'll take the result.

The Rockets, not as sharp as usual, still managed to control most of the play and tempo in a 3-1 non-conference win against Fremont Ross on Thursday.

Kelly Bryant broke a 1-1 tie by scoring with 5 minutes left before halftime and Amber Burnett scored an unassisted goal to ice the match with 3:12 left in the game for the Rockets (12-1-1).

"We played really slow and didn't play as aggressive as we normally do," Goldstein said. "We also didn't control the ball as good as we usually do, but thankfully we just had enough balls go in the net."

Oak Harbor held a 33-6 edge in shots for the match, including a 17-3 difference in shots on goal.

Ross goalkeeper Andra Snodgrass made 13 saves for the Little Giants (5-6-1), who just couldn't generate enough offense or opportunities. Brandy Schmidt made a save for the Little Giants as well, subbing in during the final minutes of the first half.

"Andra, like many of our girls, is getting better all the time," Ross coach Otto Gonzalez said. "She's done a wonderful job for us, but we need to work harder in order to get better results in the sectional tournament.

"We didn't show all the potential we have and it wasn't the team I've seen the last six games."

Katie Perry's goal just 4:29 into the match gave Oak Harbor an early 1-0 edge.

Ross countered just over 9 minutes later when Morgan Bauer's kick from the left side of the penalty box soared over Rockets goalie Chelsey Kaman's head and into the net to tie the game at 1-1 at the 26:21 mark. Picking up an assist on the play was Alexandra Miller, who stole the ball from Oak Harbor's defender and fired it up to a charging Bauer.

The match remained tied until Bryant cashed in a pass from Sara Lipstraw on the left side of the goal box with 5:24 left in the first half.

Oak Harbor out-shot Ross 17-3 in the first half with a 7-2 advantage in shots on goal. Kaman finished with three saves for the Rockets.

"Our defense has just been amazing all year," Goldstein said. "They're fast, they're smart and they know how to play very, very well. Coming into this game our goals-against average on the year was 0.86, but we still let one in and hopefully we won't let too many more in come tournament time."

Burnett completed the scoring for the Rockets with just over 3 minutes to play, pushing the lead to two.

Oak Harbor's strong defense held Ross in check as the Little Giants had just one shot on net in the

second half to 10 for the Rockets.

"There definitely were opportunities for us that we didn't capitalize on," Goldstein said. "We had several kicks go off the crossbar and they (Ross) played us really down in the box. Ross held us to tougher shots and we had several go wide, but as a coach you'd rather see them go wide than high because at least you know they're shooting for corners."

Goldstein said she and the Rockets were fortunate to come away with a win considering Ross was allowed to hang around within striking distance for almost the entire match.

On the other side, Coach Gonzalez said his girls just weren't keeping up the same energy level.

"We didn't adjust to the circumstances of the game very well," he said. "Our level of play wasn't where it was in the first half and we couldn't generate any opportunities."

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