



MENDOCINO-LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

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EAGLES SPLIT FIRST TWO CONFERENCE MATCHES

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After a busy pre-conference schedule, the Mendocino College Eagles Women' Soccer Team finally began Bay Valley Conference play with two matches; the first on the road at Contra Costa vs. the Comets this past Friday and then a home match this Tuesday vs. the Los Medanos Mustangs.

The Eagles beat Contra Costa 4-1, but lost to Los Medanos 1-0, giving Mendocino a 1-1 conference record heading into their next match this Friday at Napa Valley College.

As the scores of the two matches might indicate, the Eagles played pretty good defense in both matches, allowing just one goal in each match.

The offense clicked against Contra Costa but struggled against Los Medanos, a stronger opponent. That said, Eagles created enough opportunities against Los Medanos to take shots, but failed to capitalize.

The split left the Eagles with season record of 2-5-2.

In the conference opener against Contra Costa last Friday, the Eagles had many opportunities to score, taking a total of 25 shots, converting 4 of them into goals. The Eagles led 3-0 at half.

They rotated players in the second half, allowing players who play defensive positions in most matches to play offensive positions and take a shot or two on the Contra Costa goal. Seven different Eagles took at least one shot.

The match was actually scoreless at midpoint of the first half. The Eagles finally broke through in the 25th minute when sophomore midfielder Emmylee Holt put the first ball in the net off an assist from freshman forward Katalina Magdaleno.

Ten minutes later, it was Magdaleno getting another assist, this time to sophomore defender-turned-forward Hannah Norwood, with Norwood's goal upping the Eagles' lead to 2-0.

Having played the role as assister to that point in the match, Magdaleno took matters into her own feet, so to speak, to score Mendocino's third goal of the half in the 40th minute.

Contra Costa averted a shutout in the 70th minute of action, scoring their only goal of the match.



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Five minutes later, Holt and Magdaleno combined for the second time in the match, Magdaleno again assisting Holt for the Eagles their fourth and last goal of the match.

Eagles head coach Mark Torguson commented, “We opened conference with a win, our second of the season. We scored some nice goals and built up a lead. We got everybody on the field for some good minutes, which was pleasing. We’re looking forward to Tuesday’s match at home with Los Medanos.”

What so far has seemed almost like a prerequisite for home soccer matches, once again the game-time temperature was “toasty,” in the low 90’s (though 15 degrees less than was the case with the Siskiyou match a couple weeks back). For most of the match, there would also be no “chill factor,” with nary a hint of a breeze.

Nonetheless, the two teams played with intensity for the duration. As has seemed to be the case in several of the Eagles’ opponents, Los Medanos also fielded a team that included a handful of taller players who were both quick and also of sufficient stature to be a challenge when play became physical.

Early on, the Mustangs showed an ability to move the ball up field, twice getting off long shots and a shot from the right of the corner, but also penetrating though Eagles defenders to advance the ball into the Eagles’ third.

But the Eagles were able to counter with advances toward the Los Medanos goal, getting off four shots in the first 15 minutes, two on target off the foot of Magdaleno, but saved by the Mustangs’ keeper.

Play seesawed back and forth across midfield. In the 20th minute, a shot from the left side out beyond the 18-yard box by Magdaleno looked to be perfect, a liner on target that was too high for the Los Medanos keeper to reach. But the shot rose just high enough to skim off and over the crossbar.

A minute later, not for the last time match, a Los Medanos forward split the Eagles defense, but freshman keeper Alexis Johnson came out from the goal to pounce on the ball before the pass could be connected.

At the 16-minute mark, the Eagles just missed again on another scoring opportunity when Magdaleno got open out by the penalty arc and sent a shot that just passed outside the left upright of the Los Medanos goal.

Johnson stymied another Mustang attempt to set up a potential shot by again coming out and securing the ball.

Before the half concluded Los Medanos got off a couple more shots from long range, with plenty of distance but not much accuracy. The Eagles had better aim on a shot, but the Mustang keeper blocked the ball away from the goal.

The last shot taken in the half, just before the two-minute period, was also off target, this one wide to the ride.

The last two minutes were battled mainly in the center third. Thus the match was scoreless at half.

In the first five minutes of the second half, the Eagles tried twice to work a fast break with Norwood, but the Mustangs’ keeper short-circuited the first, coming out to intercept and the second try was defended sooner.



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The Mustangs tried to work a fast break of their own and did get off a shot at fairly close range, but it sailed wide to the left of the goal. Ten minutes into the half, Magdaleno got off a strong shot but right at the keeper who secured the ball with a catch.

The Eagles freshman defender Jordan Price twice cleared away Los Medanos passes into the Eagle's 18-yard box in the next 15 minutes of play.

The Eagles got a good look off a right corner kick centered at the top of the box straight on to the Mustang's goal. But the shot sailed way high over the goal. Another Eagles' shot was saved by the Mustangs' keeper.

Midway through the half, Los Medanos began to pressure play into the Eagles' half, making a series of advances on the Eagles' goal and getting off a couple shots in the process.

At around the 20-minute mark, Los Medanos was able to break the scoring ice on what appeared to be a questionable call by the official.

A Mustangs made a pass was rolling into the ride side of the 18-yard box, a couple yards outside the goal area. A Mustang player and the Eagles keeper converged on the ball, with the two colliding. The official ruled it a penalty on the keeper.

The Mustangs were awarded a kick from the penalty mark. The kicker was going one-one-one with the keeper. The shot was buried into the right side of the net for the first score of the match and a 1-0 lead for Los Medanos.

The Eagles tried to respond, driving twice to Los Medanos' end of the field in the next five minutes of play, getting off two shots, one sailing over the goal, the second blocked away by the Mustang's keeper.

At the 12-minute mark and Eagles' shot from the right side outer corner of the 18-yard box by Holt curved just outside the left upright of the Los Medanos goal.

With 7 minutes to play the Eagles got an indirect penalty kick on the other side of box, but the shot deflected off a defender. A follow-up shot from the other side was secured by the keeper.

The Eagles were not able to threaten again, with Los Medanos pressing back into the Eagles half the next five minutes of play and managing to take three long-range shots on goal.

The final two minutes of play was waged mostly in the center of the field, back and forth across the halfway line until the final whistle sounded.

Coach Torguson, commenting on the match, explained "I thought we defended well. We were unlucky to give away a penalty. Unfortunately, scoring which has been one of our positives, we weren't able to keep that going today. We want to find the balance in defending well, but start burying chances.