

Barons Grasp Gaithersburg 2-0

Ever had a lock that won't quite open? Tug, heave, pull . . . no release. Then, a jiggle or a soft touch and, voilà, it's there. In some ways, that was the Gaithersburg game on October 18th. For a good part of the first half, the Trojans' midfield stymied just about every B-CC attack, in turn almost scoring twice themselves, once on a challenge to B-CC keeper Angela White as she cleared a back pass that stalled in the grass, and a second time on a ball – cleared in the nick of time – that came after White was forced to leave the goal to punch a loose ball. But with eight minutes remaining in the half, B-CC forward Levin found a key in the corner and turned it to send a cross to the middle that Alex Doll headed into the goal. With the door finally cracked, B-CC stepped up its control with skillful play from Emden, Khanna, Eliza Doll, Muller, Melander, and Gersh and, behind them, Hardgrove, Mesirov, Ward, Hanifee, and Klontz.

Nothing came easily this game, not for either side, a physical match on challenging terrain. But one thing became clear: the second half belonged to B-CC. For much of the time, the ball remained in Trojans land as the Barons -- slowly, steadily, surely -- dug deeper into the final third, unleashing 13 of their game total of 20 shots. On the left side, midfielder Heaton displayed brilliant offensive moves while forwards Thorpe and Hooks pressed the defense defiantly. And then, with two minutes remaining, Melander sent a ball to Gersh who cut a tangent to the center before unleashing a left-footed bullet into the net to bust the lock for good. In all, the numbers favored B-CC: 7 shots on goal, two corners, and one save by White versus a single shot on goal, one corner, and five saves by the keeper.

By Karl Klontz