

Walter Johnson Wildcats Deliver Surprising Loss to Barons 1-0

On a cloudy, thunderous afternoon, the Barons waited out the start of a scheduled afternoon game at WJ. After a one hour delay of game, the Barons took the field and were able to post some respectable statistics in the first half. Alex Doll took the first shot in the initial minutes of the game setting an offensive pace that challenged the Wildcats defense. The Barons owned possession of the ball throughout the first half. The Wildcats only offensive build-up was denied by the expertise of defenders Kara Klontz, Zoe Mesirov, Julia Hardgrove and Tess Hanifee. Midfielder Amy Heaton cleared several balls in WJ's final third, limiting the opponents to 1 shot during the entire 40 minute period. Midfielder Vic Gersh made a series of remarkable runs up the left side and notched 3 shots on goal. With one exception, goalie Sasha Konownitzine was not tested between the pipes during the first period, the exception being a sailing corner across the goal line that required her to deftly sweep the ball with outstretched fingertips to the opposite side, preventing a headball goal.

The pace of the game began to change in the second half. Goalie Angela White made a superb save on a shot by WJ's forward Caroline Hagerty as well as one late in the game by WJ's midfielder Sydney Callas. Eliza Doll took the Barons' only corner kick sending it to the far post. However, the Wildcats were able to sneak past the Barons' defense as Hagerty took it to the right side, packaged it up and delivered it to forward Dani Armstrong who quickly touched it to the back of the net for the only goal of the game. The game ended prematurely with less than 3 minutes left on the clock as the sky filled with the bursts of thunder and lightning as WJ officials were forced to terminate the game early. It was an inopportune moment as the Barons readied a set piece after a WJ foul just outside the 18. Many BCC fans asked themselves "what if" while the Wildcats were thrilled to earn a win in a well played match.

- - by Lynn Foltz