

SOCCKER: CBC edges Chaminade 1-0 on Malle goal

TOWN AND COUNTRY • With a core group of players back from last year's Class 3 state championship squad, many expected the CBC soccer team to pick up right where it left off.

“Including those returning players,” joked CBC soccer coach Terry Michler, whose team started the season 2-2-1. “We weren't playing that bad, but we weren't scoring and when you're not scoring, that first goal against you can really change the way a team plays.”

Finding its scoring touch — to a point, at least — CBC appeared to be back on track Saturday in its Metro Catholic Conference opener against Chaminade, as the Cadets got a head-ball goal from senior Kyle Malle with about 17 minutes to play in a 1-0 victory.

Chaminade (7-2, 0-1) was No. 1, with CBC (6-2-1, 1-0) at No. 6, in the initial Post-Dispatch soccer rankings of the season.

“We're just trying to focus on getting better with each game,” Malle said after notching his second goal of the season.

“We seem to be settling in a little now,” Michler said. “Some of the new guys are stepping up, which obviously helps our depth. On top of that, after seeing that some of the other guys can play, too, it forces our returning guys to step it up as well.”

Saturday's game, played in the midday heat on the artificial turf at CBC, was decided after a nice buildup by the Cadets. From the middle of the field, Matt Clarkin played the ball to Joe Caruso on the left flank. Caruso laid off a trail pass to Corey Nolte, who delivered the cross into the box for Malle.

“We were able to swing the ball and Corey played a great ball in,” Malle said. “I was able to get a head on it and find the net.”

Chaminade started strong in each half and created its best scoring chance just after halftime. From 30 or so yards out, Red Devil senior Alex Zuerlein unleashed a shot that CBC keeper Nick Lenkman managed to tip off the cross bar.

“I'm disappointed with the result, but not with the way we played,” Chaminade coach Mike Gauvain said. “Both teams played well. We had our chances and couldn't put them away, and CBC managed to put one of their chances away.”

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