

Sorrentinos, Cadets march past Granite City



Pair of brothers step up in CBC's 5-0 victory

Paul Kopsky/STLhighschoolSPORTS.com | Granite City's Nick Grote (17) tries to hold off CBC's Kyle Malle during the first half of Thursday's game at Granite City.

Brothers Jack and Nicho Sorrentino looked forward to playing soccer together this fall, but the chances of both making their high school's varsity roster was certainly no lock.

"It was kind of iffy," admitted Nicho, a junior midfielder.

Such is often the case for even talented players at the area's most well-known three-lettered institution, otherwise known as CBC. But each had been in the program awhile, and veteran coach Terry Michler figured it was time that Nick, a senior, and his little brother get a chance to show what they can do.

Though neither is a starter this season, they've seen plenty of action. And the Sorrentino's were right in the middle of things for the Cadets Thursday night at Granite City.

Each scored a goal and added an assist in CBC's 5-0 win, which upped the Cadets' record to 5-2-1. Granite City fell to 2-4-1.

“I’ve been working them in when I can,” Michler said of the Sorrentinos. “Jack has a knack of finding the goal, and we usually have Nicho back in the midfield.

“To have them on the scoresheet together tonight was pretty cool.”

While each of the team’s five goals were big, Jack’s was a backbreaker. The Warriors trailed 2-0 with time winding down in the first half when the ball deflected to him just outside the penalty area.

Before the Granite City defense could close, Jack hit a wedge that would have made Phil Mickelson proud.

“There was a lot of people in front of me, but I saw the net was open,” the older Sorrentino said. “So I just chipped it up there and it went in just under the crossbar.”

His tally came with just six seconds left in the half, and made an already frustrated bunch of Warriors even more disgusted.

Warriors coach Jeff Hayes, whose team scored the first goal in its last game against Alton Marquette only to end up with a 3-2 loss, was hoping his team would put up more of a fight. Instead, they committed a pair of cardinal sins: giving up a goal late in the half, and allowing the opposition to score in the game’s first five minutes.

A foul in the box by Granite City junior Jake Hall at the 4:21 mark gave the Cadets an early penalty shot, and senior Matt Clarkin slid a low shot into the right corner of the net past Granite City keeper Shane Rogers for an early lead.

CBC made it 2-0 with 7:18 left when Jack Sorrentino crossed a ball toward the right side of the net. Senior Jake Bond one-timed the ball out of the air, just inside the far post.

“They did a fantastic job of knocking the ball around,” Hayes said of the Cadets. “But the longer the game went on (at 1-0) the better we felt about things. Then they got that third one, and it was pretty deflating to our moral.”

It definitely was not the close contest Hayes was hoping for, especially with former Granite City soccer coach Gene Baker on hand. Baker, 66, whom Granite City’s field was named after in 2006, led the Warriors to nine state titles during his tenure (1973-1999).

Baker also is a 1961 graduate of CBC, where he was a standout basketball player. (Back then, soccer and basketball in Missouri were in the same season.)

The Cadets added a pair of goals in the second half. Kyle Malle sent a thru ball intended for Nicho Sorrentino toward the Warriors’ net. The pass was too long and dribbled all the way to Rogers, but the goalie mishandled it, and Nicho was on the doorstep to knock it in with 22:23 to play.

Then with 11:35 to go, senior David Myers scored on a rocket from about 15 yards out. Nicho picked up the assist.

The whipping was the last thing the Warriors needed coming off a tough loss. Senior Jake Grote admitted the Cadets had a lot to do with the lopsided outcome.

“We knew they would be good,” Grote said of CBC, which outshot Granite City 12-2. “We did our best, but they are fast and solid all around.”

Senior goalie Nick Lenkman and sophomore Nathan Griffin shared the shutout. Michler had high praise for the Cadets afterward, which had the Sorrentinos and their teammates feeling pretty good about themselves.

“We have a lot of guys back from last year, and we didn’t get off to the start we wanted,” Jack Sorrentino said. “We were hoping tonight’s game would get us back on track. Tonight we finally put it together.”

And to do so with a brother on the squad is pretty special.

Said Jack: “It is really fun.”

NOTES: CBC returns home this weekend for a 2 p.m. game with MCC rival Chaminade. Granite City is off until Tuesday, when it opens play in the CYC Tournament against Francis Howell Central.

Popularity: 4%

Written by: [Scott Fitzgerald | STLhighschoolSPORTS.com](http://STLhighschoolSPORTS.com) on September 16, 2010.

Last revised by: [Paul Kopsky | STLhighschoolSPORTS.com](http://STLhighschoolSPORTS.com) on September 17, 2010.

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