

Saints fall flat in loss to Grizzlies

By John Doyle Fosters Daily Democrat 10-10-12



Doyle/Democrat photo St. Thomas midfielder Bryan King, left, dribbles downfield with Goffstown's Mike Simons in hot pursuit during Division II action on Tuesday.

DOVER — The St. Thomas Aquinas High School boys soccer team thought it had found its scoring touch, but it was missing on Tuesday in a 2-0 Division II home loss to Goffstown. “Having a no-score game is really frustrating,” said St. Thomas junior midfielder Bryan King. “We just need to put it on the floor and pass it up. The energy wasn’t there. The concentration wasn’t there.”

The Saints, who had experienced wins of 4-1 over Hollis/Brookline and 3-1 over Milford during a recent stretch, were shut out for the second time this season. Goffstown scored both of its goals in the first half, and King was stymied on a penalty kick in the 59th minute.

King lamented that he might have accidentally tipped off Goffstown goalie Henry Seidel just before making contact with the ball.

“I took a peek at the (right) bottom corner,” King said. “He might have seen that. (I) put my head down, probably should have looked at him and see where he was going, but I picked right corner and went with it. It just didn’t work out. He dove and blocked it. It was a good save though.”

The Grizzlies got goals from Riley Ellis in the 15th minute and Ryan Sharby in the 26th.

“Once they gave up the first goal, they start trying too hard,” St. Thomas coach Scott Suleski said. “They come off their game plan. We outshot them the second half but they just basically hung back and kicked it as far as they could.

In addition to King’s missed penalty kick, the Saints missed out on a number of scoring opportunities in the second half. Jon Nartiff saw a shot go wide in the 61st minute. In the 65th minute, a high shot by King bounced off Seidel’s hands and behind him, but the goalie scrambled in the nick of time to keep the ball on the right side of the goal line (even though his body was well inside the goal).

Goffstown outshot the Saints 9-7 and improved to 7-4.

“Our M.O. has been to score early and be smart the rest of the game,” Grizzlies coach Randy Lovering said. “If you get chances, take them, but don’t take unnecessary risks. And I think that’s the same in all of Division II this year. The scores are all close. It is what it is. Anybody

wins any day. Whoever comes out hard that day and has a good game is going to probably come out on top.”

The loss left the Saints at 5-5-1 and scrambling to clinch a home game for the tournament which starts in a little more than two weeks.

Suleski noted that heavy rains over the past week have taken their toll on the Saints’ home field.

The same rain caused the St. Thomas football team to move its game against Lebanon last Saturday to the artificial turf of Exeter High School.

“Our field is falling apart on us,” Suleski said. “I don’t know how they’re going to play a football game here on Friday night. There won’t be much field left for the rest of the season.”

St. Thomas visits Portsmouth on Friday. The Clippers beat the Saints 2-1 when the teams last met on Sept. 7 in Dover.