

Caught Off Guard, Terps Lose in Sudden Death Overtime 1-0

Contributed by Christopher Blunck
Friday, 03 October 2008
Last Updated Monday, 06 October 2008

COLLEGE PARK, Md. -- The Maryland Terrapins Women's Soccer team welcomed the visiting Florida State Seminoles to town this evening and took the No. 11 'Noles through 90 minutes of tough competitive soccer before succumbing in the 7th minute of the first overtime period. Terrapin junior goalkeeper Mary Casey, who was injured with a concussion during her match against Wake Forest last weekend, guarded the net and recorded a career best 8 saves over 97 minutes of play.

Veteran leadership by the Florida State attackers proved fatal for the Terps in sudden-death overtime. After Amanda DaCosta was fouled just outside the 18-yard box the Seminoles assembled their free kick positions. Terrapin defenders were still in the process of preparing when senior captain Sarah Wagenfuhr rushed her kick and caught Maryland off guard. A couple of members of the Terrapin "wall" (players positioned between the kicker and the goal) had their backs to the kicker while Wagenfuhr bent her shot towards the right post. Sanna Talonen was there for the header and played the ball perfectly towards the right goalpost for the 1-0 win.

The loss cut short a historic game for Terrapin keeper Mary Casey.

Despite the loss, the Terrapin midfield and backfield squads were solid in their performance this evening as they stuck to their coverage assignments and were aggressive in cutting off passing lanes. The underclassmen continued to perform well under pressure, with Sade Ayinde, Lydia Hastings, and Becky Kaplan playing particularly well. Ayinde preserved the 0-0 tie heading into the closing 5 minutes by sticking to her attacker and stepping up to block a shot when Lauren Switzer pulled the trigger.

Maryland's attackers were also a nuisance for the Seminole backfield. Kaila Sciascia, with her aggressive posture and fancy footwork, broke free of two defenders and raced towards the 18-yard box before lobbing a shot at Kate Milstead. Milstead came out and scooped up the shot, much to the dismay of the Maryland bench and the crowd.

Jasmyne Spencer's quick legs also proved a challenge this evening. On several occasions the 5'1" freshman from Bay Shore New York caught the midfielders off guard as she broke into her stride and outpaced her guards. Spencer nearly scored half way through the second half on a rebound she scooped up from goalkeeper Milstead.

Lydia Hastings was also a formidable opponent for Florida State. The underclassman from Rehobeth Beach Delaware duped her defenders on more than one occasion with reverses and pop-ups that opened up passing lanes to her teammates on the attack. Danielle Schulmann often became the recipient of those forwards and was effective in her attacks this evening.

Having been out-shot 10-3 at halftime, the Terrapins headed into the locker room with an upbeat tempo, having withstood the Seminole assault without suffering any losses in the points category. Maryland was also out-cornered 2-0 in the first half, and Mary Casey came up with 4 clutch saves to preserve the 0-0 tie.

Although much of the second half belonged to the Seminoles, the Terps scraped together some threatening attacks towards the end of regulation. With several corner kicks and shots that piled up in one possession it appeared as though momentum favored the home team. However, solid defensive play on the part of the 'Noles denied Maryland any goals.

With their loss this evening Maryland drops to 0-3-0 in conference play and 4-6-1 overall. They have little time to regroup and prepare before the arrival of Miami on Sunday at 1pm.

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