

OC Falls Short Against Defending CIF Champions

Dec. 5 | Ontario:

Ontario Christian set out Tuesday night to warn the rest of the Division VI teams that it was ready to play at a high level this season. After two rebuilding years following their own CIF Division VI championship season of 2003-2004 the Lady Knights looked to knock off the defending champions of St. Margaret's. The outlook was promising as Stephanie Munguia drew early blood in the fifth minute with a close range finish for her first goal of the year. Sarah Huizenga provided a beautiful service into the goal area after making an overlapping run from her outside back position.

The lead would evaporate quickly as the Tartans would answer just four minutes later when Marisa Yanez knocked in a loose ball just feet from the goal line. Over the course of the next ten minutes OC found themselves in disarray and St. Margaret's would make them pay for their mistakes scoring in the 17th and 19th minutes to go up 3-1. Jessica Zavalza would notch the first after getting in behind the defense. Yanez picked up her second goal of the match after another close range shot resulting from a failed clearance.

With the intention of playing better in the second half and simply focusing on making improvements the Lady Knights took over the match in the second half. Solid possession throughout the defensive and midfield thirds of the field saw OC controlling much of the play. In the 57th minute of play Kaitlyn Mendoza finally broke through for her team leading third goal of the season. Marisella Macias broke in behind the defense before crossing to the on rushing freshman. Although the Tartans would muster little offense and was on its heels much of the second half they would hold fast in the final third of the field and preserved the victory. As the whistle blew the Lady Knights fell short with a final score of 3-2 in favor of St. Margaret's.

The Lady Knights drop to 0-2-2 on the season and will be back on the pitch Saturday, December 9 when they return to the La Mirada Matadors' Cup for playoff action as they meet Valencia at 9:00 a.m.