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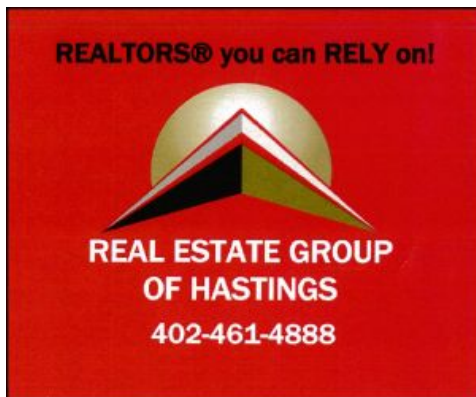
## HC men capture perfect GPAC record

Austin Druse Oct 30, 2017

The Hastings College men's soccer team secured a perfect conference record, but Saturday's 3-0 win over Morningside came under unusual circumstances.

The No. 7 Broncos were without two of their most prolific offensive weapons. Daniel Whitehall and Lucas Venegas both watched from the press box — Whitehall due to rest, and Venegas due to an injured toe.

Despite missing those two, Hastings looked strong offensively, scoring all three of its goals in the first half to improve to 15-3 overall and 9-0 in the Great Plains Athletic Conference.



Bryant Toro scored twice, first in the 7th minute when he headed a cross from Tor Trosten and again in the 41st minute on a double assist from Daniel Shonka and Marc Tautz.

Trosten also had a goal in the 24th minute, scoring on a cross from Tautz.

The Broncos had 19 shots to Morningside's five, as HC goalkeeper Joe White earned the shut out.

“The early goals and the control of the game allowed us to get some extra guys some rest and hopefully get them prepared for the tournament,” said head coach Aaron Champenoy.

Hastings will host the Dordt Defenders (8-10, 2-7) in the quarterfinals of the GPAC postseason tournament at Lloyd Wilson Field on Tuesday with kickoff set for 7 p.m.

While the Broncos did defeat the Defenders 6-1 back on Sept. 23, Champenoy noted that it’s important for his team to play well in the conference tournament to ensure an automatic bid into the NAIA tournament.

“We’ve gotta prove ourselves every game right now,” Champenoy said.

“We don’t want to put our fate in anyone else’s hands, so we need to go out and take it one game at a time and put ourselves in position to win the tournament and hopefully get the automatic bid to nationals.”



Champenoy was also pleased with the of depth by his roster, particularly against the Mustangs, as he was able to clear his bench. Missing two influential attacking players brings forth coaching adjustments, and further adjustments may have to be made if Venegas can’t return as early as he hopes.

“The good thing is I think we’ve shown pretty good depth in the second half of the season,” the coach said. “We hope that Venegas is fine, and we can’t wait to get him back on the field. He’s a huge player for us but there’s a lot of quality on the team so I think we should be alright.”

Hastings has not lost since a controversial home match against Baker on Sept. 13, where the Broncos picked up three yellows and a red card while scoring no goals.

Since that loss, the Broncos have outscored opponents 58-6 and appeared to have moved past their ‘championship hangover.’

Speaking on that slow start to the season and the recent success of the team, Champenoy said: “It took a little while to get us going, but those early games I think paid off for us and got us ready for this part of the season. I think the guys have been in pretty good form, and we gotta keep it up and keep working hard, stay humble and just take it one game at a time.”



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