



Aliso Niguel High School Soccer Program
WOLVERINES



January 13, 2010

Boys Varsity
Aliso Niguel 0 vs. Mission Viejo 0

Aliso Niguel kicked off the second game of the season against one of the top ranked teams in Orange County, MVHS, needing some scoring, having been held to a 0-0 tie at Capistrano Valley last Friday.

The game kicked off at 5PM, following the JV teams' 1-1 tie - was this a portent of things to come?

Right from the kickoff, MVHS pressed, with their main focus being Aliso Niguel's right side. MVHS had a very speedy winger who gave our defense headaches throughout the game. MVHS's keeper was never really tested at any point in the game however- any shots that Aliso Niguel had were either wide of the mark or right at him.

Aliso Niguel did have several chances to penetrate the MVHS defense, in particular from some long throw-ins from Eric Hunter, but Aliso Niguel was unable to capitalize on them with any sustained pressure around the goal. Patrick Wehan made an audacious steal of a casual pass by the MVHS keeper, but was unable to finish.

In the second half, the stalemate continued, with Aliso Niguel unable to really get inside the MVHS defense and MVHS unable to beat Aliso Niguel's stalwart keeper Alex Figueroa. In fact, Figgi was the deciding factor in the game, just as Kathleen Messinger proved to be for the Girls team against Capistrano Valley in their season opener. Whenever MVHS managed a shot at goal or a searching cross, Figgi came up big and kept Aliso Niguel in the game.

The best save of the game came from a shot from 35 yards that Alex tipped over the crossbar with a fingertip save! Aliso Niguel's best chance of the second half came when Ho-Jae Jang decided to take matters in his own hands and, from a position deep in his own backfield, proceeded to rush the ball up the right side. He made a nice give-and-go play with Adam Tedder that resulted in Tedder playing the ball back into his path at speed, but unfortunately, the attack died on the walls of the MVHS defense as they stood Ho-Jae up at the 18 yard line and Aliso Niguel was unable to make anything of the play.

Throughout the game, Aliso Niguel seemed content to use a style of play that relied on kicking the ball forward with gusto, rather than a more patient style of play that focused on possession first. As a result, they turned the ball over on a regular basis with little to show for their efforts, while relying on Figgi's yeoman efforts in goal to keep the game close.

The most comical moment of the game was when Aliso Niguel was awarded a free kick **RIGHT ON THE 20 YARD LINE**. The referee proceeded to push the MVHS wall back **9 YARDS**, instead of the 10 yards mandated by the laws of the game. Considering they were playing on a field marked out for (American) football, the error was ridiculously obvious to those in the stands. In fact, a case could be made that that error cost Aliso Niguel a goal, since the resulting shot barely cleared the wall and **JUST** went over the crossbar...

So, the result was another scoreless game that gives Aliso Niguel a 0-0-2 record with no goals conceded and no goals scored. Aliso Niguel's next opponent is Dana Hills High School which scored 4 goals in their first game alone! It promises to be an interesting match up...