



*Aliso Niguel High School Soccer Program*  
**WOLVERINES**



January 22, 2010

**Boys Varsity**  
**Aliso Niguel 0 vs. San Clemente 3**

San Clemente kicked off right on 5PM, in a game started during a break in some of the stormiest weather seen in Southern California for some time.

The first opportunity fell to the visitors, with a short corner attempt that was unable to penetrate the vaunted Aliso Niguel defense, which has been one to the team's saving graces to this point of the season. It was followed by another ineffectual corner from a Figuroa save when he turned a shot by the left post.

It did not take long for the rain to turn up, as the sky's opened to make it a wet cold contest. The water on the pitch made the ball slippery to deal with for both teams, causing shots and passes to go astray and accurate throw ins a gamble at best...the ball behaves differently on grass and turf when it is wet. If the grass is at all long, the ball tends to slow when it is wet, whereas on turf, the ball will skip off the surface with more speed.

San Clemente plays a strong passing style of play, with an emphasis on ball possession, while Aliso Niguel continued to focus on bombing the ball forward at almost every opportunity, turning possession into 50/50 contests in the slippery and unpredictable conditions.

Adam Tedder had several nice turns of play, including a deceptive spin move while in possession, a blast at goal that was blocked by a wall of bodies and contributions to Devlin's several attempts on goal.

Near the 20 minute mark, one of the San Clemente defenders seemed to handle the ball; the referee put his whistle to his mouth... and appeared to swallow it, as no penalty was awarded to the incredulous Aliso Niguel players.

Ho-Jae Jang had a number of chances from set pieces, but the slippery ball and the wind seemed to throw his attempts off, either seeing them go off target, or in the case of a nice penetrating ball from 40 yards, arch just beyond the heads of the onrushing attackers.

While San Clemente made more of their ball possession that is not to say that Aliso Niguel did not have their chances. As San Clemente began to break out of their penalty area, a clearance flew toward Hunter. He lunged at it and turned it back against the play to Chris Olmado, who deftly turned the ball with his chest to Velizar Dimov. Veli unfortunately dribbled into a crowd, but did manage to play the ball to an attacking Eric Hunter who's shot, while hard and accurately on goal, went to the keeper.

Hunter continued to contribute, making a throw in that fell to Veli. Unfortunately, Dimov was moving backwards and his attempted shot popped up and over the net.

The play continued back and forth for the remainder of the half, with San Clemente getting the better of the chances, using nice through balls into space for their wingers to run onto, playing wide to try and spread out the Aliso Niguel defense.

Late in the half, Boomer went down in a heap and had to be helped off by the coaching staff with what looked like a painful knee injury- let's hope it is not serious.

Aliso Niguel's last chance of the half came from a set piece, with Olmado curling a ball in that again, eluded any Aliso Niguel heads!

The second half began with a controversial penalty awarded to San Clemente. The play seemed to happen outside the penalty area, but the San Clemente made a good show of hitting the deck- less than convincingly to those in the home stands. This seemed to take the wind out of the Aliso Niguel offense, which had up to this point helped to keep the game an even one.

San Clemente snatched a quick second goal to all but seal the win, although they appeared to do it by handling the ball in the area.

A third goal came not too long after to close the scoring out for San Clemente and unfortunately Aliso Niguel as well. While the loss seemed a little harsh, given that Aliso Niguel had held San Clemente to a goalless draw through the first half, 456 did play a controlled game that seemed to have more purpose to it and focused on possession of the ball rather than gaining yardage at any cost. But perhaps the most egregious thing that happened to Aliso Niguel was a straight red card issued to Eric Hunter for a tackle. It looked neither dangerous nor blatant but nevertheless, Eric will have to face CIS disciplinary action for it.