

Timbers burn Battery on late penalty kick

TIMBERS 2, BATTERY 1

BY ANDREW MOSIER
Special to The Post and Courier

DANIEL ISLAND—It seemed the Charleston Battery had done everything they needed to against Portland on Friday night.

With the score tied 1-1 in injury time, it looked like the revived Battery would walk away with at least a point against the unbeaten Timbers at Blackbaud Stadium. Until referee Andres Pfefferkom had his say in the matter.

With less than a minute left in stoppage time, Pfefferkom whistled an inexplicable foul on Battery defender Mark Watson inside the Battery penalty area, awarding the Timbers a penalty kick. Alex Bengard slammed home the spot-kick past a diving Dusty Hudock to beat the Battery 2-1.

No sooner did the ball bulge the net than the referee ended the game and was escorted by police off the field, and out of the stadium, as the more than 4,000 fans in attendance whistled their displeasure.

"There was no foul on the play," said Watson. "From the referee's point of view, it was embarrassing, I thought. I just headed it away, and he blew the whistle. It's a pretty devastating way to lose a game."

The Battery (2-4-3) had the first good chance of the game four minutes in, when Greg Simmonds cracked a right-footed blast off the post. Aleksey Korol jumped on the rebound and hit goalkeeper Josh Saunders square in the chest before the ball was cleared to safety.

The Timbers (6-0), with the best attack in the A-League, were

repeatedly stymied by the retooled Battery defense, which only included one player, Ivan McKinley, from last week's horrid defeat against Atlanta. The solid backline did well, giving Hudock little to do.

That all changed in the 28th minute when Battery defender Jason Kutney was slow pushing forward and left league-leading scorer Alan Gordon onside with nothing but green grass and Hudock in between him and the goal. Gordon took advantage and slotted home his seventh goal of the season.

Paul Conway, returning from injury, leveled the score in the 42nd minute off a brilliantly played cross from Simmonds. Having jumped on a long clearance into the corner, Simmonds held his defender at bay in the corner until he had support in Conway. Conway got his head on a waist-high cross and tucked it neatly into the near post.

With 20 minutes remaining in the match, Battery coach Chris Ramsey inserted forwards Wolde Harris and Chris Bagley up front with Conway to pressure the Portland goal. Several attempts fell just short, and it looked like Charleston was content to take its chances in overtime when the penalty was awarded.

"It's like we have a black cloud over us at the moment," Ramsey said. "I'm very, very disappointed with that call. There wasn't anything that warranted that call. But they have their ways and their means of doing things. From our point of view, it's just another chapter in the saga we seem to be in at the moment."

NCAA BASEBALL REGIONALS

Charlottesville (Va.) Regional

(Double Elimination)
At Davenport Field
Charlottesville, Va.

Friday
Game 2 — Vanderbilt 7, George Mason 3
Game 1 — Princeton at Virginia, ppd., rain
Today
Game 1 — Princeton (27-18) at Virginia (42-13), 11 a.m.
Game 3 — Game 1 loser vs. George Mason (39-18), 3 p.m.
Game 4 — Game 1 winner vs. Vanderbilt (43-17), 7 p.m.
Game 5 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 loser, TBA

Sunday

Game 6 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 1 p.m.
Game 7 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 6 p.m.

Kinston (N.C.) Regional

At Grainger Stadium
Kinston, N.C.

Friday
Game 2 — Tennessee (37-22) vs. North Carolina-Wilmington (38-21), ppd., rain
Game 1 — Stony Brook at East Carolina, ppd., rain
Today
Game 2 — Tennessee (37-22) vs. North Carolina-Wilmington (38-21), 3 p.m.
Game 1 — Stony Brook (29-25) at East Carolina (48-11), 7 p.m.

Sunday

Game 3 — Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser, 11 a.m.
Game 4 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 3 p.m.
Game 5 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 loser, 7 p.m.

Monday

Game 6 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 1 p.m.
Game 7 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 45 minutes after Game 6, if necessary

Columbia Regional

At Sarge Frye Field
Columbia, S.C.

Friday
North Carolina 6, Coastal Carolina 5
South Carolina 12, The Citadel 4
Today
Game 3 — The Citadel (38-27) vs. Coastal Carolina (40-22), 11 a.m.
Game 4 — South Carolina (46-15) vs. North Carolina (42-19), 3 p.m.
Game 5 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 loser, 7 p.m.

Sunday

Game 6 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 1:30 p.m.
Game 7 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 5:30 p.m., if necessary

Athens (Ga.) Regional

At Foley Field
Athens, Ga.

Friday
Georgia 16, Middle Tennessee 2
Clemson 10, Birmingham-Southern 6
Today
Game 3 — Middle Tennessee (40-21) vs. Birmingham Southern (46-17), 11 a.m.
Game 4 — Georgia (39-20) vs. Clemson (37-24), 3 p.m.
Game 5 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 loser, 7 p.m.

Sunday

Game 6 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 2 p.m.
Game 7 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 45 minutes after Game 6, if necessary

Atlanta Regional

At Russ Chandler Stadium
Atlanta

Friday
Texas Tech 10, Mississippi State 6
Georgia Tech 16, Jacksonville State 3
Today
Game 3 — Jacksonville State (31-28) vs. Mississippi State (34-23), 11 a.m.
Game 4 — Georgia Tech (42-19) vs. Texas Tech (39-19), 3 p.m.
Game 5 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 loser, 7 p.m.

Sunday

Game 6 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 2 p.m.



DAVID J.

North Carolina State's Derek McKee (left) Phillip Davidson and Lee Mezist after scoring the winning run to beat Florida Atlantic 6-5.

Coral Gables (Fla.) Regional

At Mark Light Field
Coral Gables, Fla.

Friday
North Carolina State 6, Florida Atlantic 3
Miami 6, St. Bonaventure 3
Today
Game 3 — St. Bonaventure (29-21) vs. Atlantic (45-16), Noon
Game 4 — Miami (45-11) vs. North Carolina State (36-22), 3:30 p.m.
Game 5 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 loser, 7 p.m.

Sunday

Game 6 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 1 p.m.
Game 7 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 45 minutes after Game 6, if necessary

South Bend (Ind.) Regional

At Frank Eck Stadium
South Bend, Ind.

Friday
Kent State 2, Notre Dame 1
Arizona 7, UC Irvine 3
Today
Game 3 — Notre Dame (49-11) vs. Arizona (34-22-1), Noon
Game 4 — Kent State (36-25) vs. UC Irvine (31-21-1), 4 p.m.
Game 5 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 loser, 7 p.m.

Sunday

Game 6 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 2 p.m.
Game 7 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 45 minutes after Game 6, if necessary

Oxford (Miss.) Regional

At Swayze Field
Oxford, Miss.

Friday
Tulane 3, Washington 2
Western Kentucky 1, Mississippi State 1
Today
Game 3 — Mississippi State (39-20) vs. Tulane (37-19-1), Noon
Game 4 — Western Kentucky (35-19-1), 4 p.m.
Game 5 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 loser, 8 p.m.

Sunday

Game 6 — Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 2 p.m.

Santos aims to play spoiler

Associated Press

NEW YORK—Jose Santos knows the pressure jockey Stewart Elliott is facing heading into the Belmont Stakes.

Santos rode Funny Cide, last year's Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner who came up short in the Belmont in his Triple Crown try. The popular New York-bred gelding finished third as the even-money favorite

Santos said. "I can give him no advice because I'm going to try to beat him. The only thing I can tell him is 'Good Luck.'"

Santos said he had a great time during his Triple Crown run.

"It was very exciting," Santos said. "Me and my family had a great time. We made a lot of good friends through the Triple Crown."

Funny Cide was unable to handle the wet track at Belmont.

day, June

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