

SPORTS

Cougar Soccer Club starts league play in fine fashion

By Mike Connolly
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The Cougar Soccer Club picked up 12 victories to open conference play recently.

Girls U10 Premier 5, Secaucus 1

The U10 Premier team broke up a tight game with five straight goals in the second half to defeat Secaucus, 5-1, at **Borden Park** on Sunday, Sept. 19. Morgan Druck scored the first two goals of her Cougar career to lead the offensive burst in the second half. Her second goal came thanks to a well-placed throw-in by Pacey Lorre that sprang Druck for an open dash to the goal.

Talia Levine assisted on Druck's first goal and also added a goal of her own.

Cougar SC opened the scoring in the first half when Levine's sprint up the field drew a penalty in the box. Amelia Connolly knocked in the ensuing penalty kick for the first of her two goals.

Goalkeeper Esme Navarro kept the game close in the first half, while Eleanor Winkfield posted a shutout in the second half.

Girls U9 Pro 6, Verona 1

The Girls U9 Pro team opened the season with a six-goal offensive outburst, defeating Verona, 6-1, on Sunday, Sept. 19, in Verona.

Boys U9 Elite 1, Rutherford 1 Tenafly 5, Boys U9 Elite 0

Edison Barkey pounced on a loose ball and blasted a shot into the bottom corner with less than nine minutes left in the game to secure a 1-1 tie with Rutherford on Saturday, Sept. 18, at **Borden Park**.

The Boys U9 Elite team gave up an early goal to Rutherford on a penalty kick, but then the defense, led by Sam Lynch, stiffened to shut down Rutherford for the rest of the game. Cougar SC had several chances to score, but couldn't find the back of the net until Barkey's late heroics.

The U9 Elite Boys (0-1-1) dropped a game to Tenafly on Sunday, Sept. 19, 5-0.

Silver Lake Academy 6, Boys U9 Premier 0

The Boys U9 Premier team dropped a tough game to Silver Lake Academy, 6-0, on Saturday, Sept. 18, in Staten Island, N.Y.

World Class FC 3, Boys U9 Pro 1

The Boys U9 Pro team dropped a tight 3-1 match to World Class FC at **home** on Sept. 18.

Boys U10 Premier 1, Verona 0

Precision passing by the Boys U10 Premier team allowed Lucas Alvarado to score the winning goal in the second half to defeat Verona, 1-0, at **Borden Park** on Sept. 18.

Alvarado's goal was all Cougar SC needed, as the stout Cougar defense fended off Verona's attempts to score an equalizer. Liam Hastings, Liam Smith and James Saporito led the defenders in



Photo Courtesy of Mike Connolly

U9 Boys Elite celebrate a goal during Week 1 action.

front of goalkeeper Jackson Osborn as Cougar SC posted a clean sheet victory.

Boys U10 Pro 4, Secaucus 0 Boys U10 Pro 4, Cougars United 1

The Boys U10 Pro jumped to the top of the standings with a pair of victories to open the regular season. Center midfielder Alex Burrell led Cougar SC with a natural hat trick to defeat Secaucus, 4-0. Hudson Miele finished off the scoring.

Cougar SC faced adversity in its second match of the weekend, falling behind 1-0 to Cougars United in Cresskill. Henry Meagher evened the score just before halftime, and then Cougar SC took over in the second half.

Matai Zorel stripped the ball from Cougars United and made a perfect pass to Miele, who chipped the ball over the head of the goalkeeper for a 2-1 lead. Miele gave Cougar SC some breathing room with a free-kick blast from outside the box to push the lead to 3-1. An own goal by Cougars United closed out the scoring, 4-1.

Verona 1, Girls U11 Premier 0

The Girls U11 Premier team continued its strong defensive performance to open the season, yielding just one goal in a loss to Verona on Sept. 18, in Verona.

Boys U11 Pro 7, Tenafly 3

The Boys U11 Pro team opened the season with a strong offensive performance, defeating Tenafly, 7-3, on Sept. 18, at **DeHart Park**.

Cougar SC opened up a 4-0 lead and cruised to victory.

Sean Hermes had a hat trick for Cougar SC.

Boys U11 Elite 6, Glen Ridge 1

Bobby Murphy scored the first goal of his Cougar travel career and followed it up with a second goal as the Boys U11 Premier team rallied to defeat Glen Ridge, 6-1, Sept. 18, in Glen Ridge.

Cougar SC fell behind early as Glen Ridge scored on a corner kick before Cooper Schwartz scored two goals to give Cougar SC a lead it would never relinquish. Both goals came on assists from Gilmore Morales, who combined with Murphy to control the midfield throughout the match.

Brody Angevine pushed the lead to 3-1, scoring on a cross from Rylan Connolly. Rafi Barkey also scored for Cougar SC. Idan Saadia had two assists.

Maroons 4, Boys U11 Premier 2

The Boys U11 Premier team fell, 4-2, to Maroons at **home** on Sept. 18.

Girls U12 Premier 1, Aviators 1

The Girls U12 Premier team picked up a tie against Aviators on Sept. 19, at **DeHart Park**.

Boys U12 Pro 4, Clarkstown 1

The Boys U12 Pro team had plenty of offensive firepower in a 4-1 win against Clarkstown on Sept. 18.

Dragons 2, Boys U12 Premier 1

The Boys U12 Premier team dropped a tight 2-1 match to Dragons on Sept. 18, at **DeHart Park**.

Girls U13 Premier 4, Dumont 1

The Girls U13 Premier team jumped out to a three-goal lead and cruised to a 4-1 victory over Dumont on Sept. 19, at **Orange Park**. Olivia Roskin blasted a shot into the top-right corner off a corner kick to give Cougar SC a lead it would never

relinquish.

Annabel Doyle, playing up from the U12 girls team, tenaciously fought through the Dumont defense to make it 2-0. Just before halftime, Sienna Parker intercepted a Dumont goal kick at the top of the penalty box and scored into the lower-right corner for a 3-0 halftime lead.

The teams traded goals in the second half as Dumont scored on a free kick, but the Cougar SC defense clamped down to preserve the regular-season win. Other than the free kick goal, Jojo Yarde was unbeatable in goal. Strong defensive play by Shayna Campbell, Sahana Lynch, Amelia Stetson and Kama Westhelle ensured a comfortable win to start the season.

The team had a scary moment when Scarlett Cohen was injured at the end of a strong shift but the team hopes she recovers quickly.

Ridgefield Park 8, Boys U13 Premier 4

Cougar SC fell behind early to Ridgefield Park but battled back in the second half of a 8-4 road loss on Saturday, Sept. 18. Cougar SC trailed, 7-1, at halftime but outscored Ridgefield Park 3-1, in the second half.

Girls U14 Premier 1, AYSO Bergen 0

The strong Cougar SC defense posted its third shutout of the fall season, shutting down ASYO Bergen in the conference opener on Sunday, Sept. 19, at **Orange Park**.

Sophia Islam and Vivian Lawrence led a defense that has given up more than one goal only once in five games.

Midfielder Celia Mann earned Player of the Match honors for scoring the only goal of the game in the first half.

Boys U14 Premier 4, Waldrick Warriors 2

The Boys U14 Premier team opened in defense of its spring flight championship with a 4-2 victory over the Waldrick Warriors on Sept. 18, at **DeHart Park**.

The back-and-forth match featured two ties before Cougar SC pulled away in the second half.

Henry Short opened the scoring off a corner kick before the Warriors answered to tie the game.

Theo Sigalos sent Cougar SC into halftime with a 2-1 lead with a low shot to the corner.

The Warriors, however, tied the game again at 2 early in the second half.

Moments later, Cormac Sullivan put Cougar SC back on top, 3-2, before Sigalos clinched the win with his second goal of the game.

Ramapo Valley 6, Boys U15 Elite 0

The Boys U15 Elite team dropped a tough game to Ramapo Valley, 6-0, Sept. 18, in Hillburn, N.Y.