HPU men's soccer wins 7th straight

BY GREER SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE ENTERPRISE

HIGH POINT — High Point University's men's soccer team overwhelmed George Washington on Tuesday.

The Panthers tallied once in each half, prevented the Revolutionaries from consistently getting good looks in their attacking third and emerged with a 2-0 nonconference victory at Vert Stadium in the first meeting of the two programs.

"We feel like that was our most complete performance of the season from start to finish in every phase of the game," HPU head coach Zach Haines said. "The best part about it is it comes in Game 13, and that is what this program has always been about — getting better, getting better, getting better — constantly improving so we have our best stuff at the end of the season."

HPU improved to 9-3-1 with its seventh victory in a row, which became the longest active winning streak in NCAA Division I when Boston University's six-game streak was snapped by a tie later on Tuesday.

The Panthers' run has followed a stretch that included losses to three Top 15 teams and a tie.

Nick Sarantakos and Thomasville native Anthony Ramirez scored a goal each for the Panthers. Noah Behrmann was credited with two assists and Sarantakos had one.

HPU also put the ball in the net on Daniel Lugo's header in the first half but it was disallowed when the Panthers were called for offsides.

HPU finished with a whopping 17-6 advantage in shots after holding the Revolutionaries to just one in the first half. The Panthers put seven shots on goal while HPU keeper Josh Carson stopped George Washington's two on frame in earning the shutout. The Revolutionaries, who are winless in Atlantic 10 play, moved to 4-5-3.

"To me what separates a good performance and a good result from a great

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performance and great result is not just the scoreline but everything you do in-between, being in control of every situation," Haines said. "Even when George Washington did something positive, it was our reactions. Even when we make a mistake, our reactions — everything is positive, everything is effective and together. That is what we felt was the difference tonight."

Sarantakos scored his third goal of the year when he controlled a pass from Behrmann on the right side of the box and angled a shot that went between a defender's legs and into the net inside the left post with 3:35 left in the first half.

Ramirez, a senior midfielder who attended Ledford Middle School before moving to Philadelphia, scored his first goal since 2024 at the end of a sequence in the 58th minute.

"It was a relief since I haven't scored since my sophomore year," Ramirez said. "I'm happy that I got one today and happy that we got the win. Sometimes we get a late goal like that and we keep defending and scratch out a win."

Behrmann set up the scoring opportunity with a pass to Sarantakos on the left side. Sarantakos sent the ball to Ramirez, who fired a shot from inside the arc of the penalty area into the left side of the net.

Ramirez, who sometimes starts and sometimes comes off the bench depending on the situation, scored shortly after coming off the bench.

"I trust the coaches and I know what they need in that moment," Ramirez said. "If they feel we need a fast start and who to put in for that, I trust that. I love to start but if that's not the reality, I come on and play as much as they need me to play and hopefully I can make an impact."

With assists on both goals against George Washington and assists on both goals against USC Upstate on Saturday, Behrmann has four in a row and eight for the season.

"I've been working on my crossing," Behrmann said. "Earlier in the season, my crossing wasn't amazing. But as the season has progressed, the guys have helped me find my rhythm, hitting quality balls in practice every day. Practice makes perfect and with their encouragement, I've been putting the ball in better areas."

HPU returns to Big South play on Saturday at Presbyterian.