



Braden Lehner tries to shoot past the Northbrook keeper during Friday's area round game between Tompkins and Northbrook at Legacy Stadium.

Tompkins falls to Northbrook in thrilling penalty shootout

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

It was neck and neck all night between Tompkins and Northbrook.

The Falcons knew they were in for a tough match against the District 17-6A winners in the second round of the playoffs, but Tompkins was up for the challenge. The Falcons took Northbrook on to the very end, ending full time in a 1-1, but in the end Northbrook came out on top, winning a penalty shootout 7-6 over the Falcons.

"It was an unbelievable effort tonight," said Tompkins head coach Tom Jones. "We started out with a couple guys injured and then we had some guys go down tonight as well, but everyone who went in stepped up. They fought all night — there was 100 minutes played and they were limping, they're pushing, and they did everything they can. They should keep their heads up because they left everything on the field tonight."

It was a hard fought game and neither team could break the deadlock in the first half. Northbrook came out wanting to possess the ball and Tompkins was happy to let them do it, with the Falcons breaking on the counter to create chances. Northbrook broke the tie just a minute into the second half. Anthony Ayala got past the Tompkins defense and slipped it into the back of the net.

Tompkins pushed for the tying goal all second half and almost had it multiple times. But even with misses they weren't deterred and in the 74th minute, the Falcons found the equalizer as Braden Lehner was able to head a corner into the near post corner and tie the game.

"The defense was huge for us today and really helped keep us in the game," Jones said. "They kept everything in front of them, did



Roman Ryabchenko dribbles past a defender during Friday's area round game between Tompkins and Northbrook at Legacy Stadium.

everything we asked them to do and grinded it out. Everyone gave everything they had."

The game went into extra time and both teams continuing to create chances, but neither could find the game winner, with the game ultimately going to penalties and both teams takers did well. Tompkins missed its second penalty and Northbrook missed its fourth. Both teams' penalty makers made the next three, and Tompkins missed its ninth attempt before Northbrook was able to sneak its last penalty past the Tompkins keeper and into the net, as the Falcons were not able to keep the shootout going.

"We knew what they were going to try and come out and do and we wanted to counter off that and we creat-



Eloy Ferrer takes a free kick during Friday's area round game between Tompkins and Northbrook at Legacy Stadium.

ed chances doing it," Jones said. "We did a decent job of it, but of course could have done some things better. But in the end, both of the teams played really well and it came down to a bit of luck — it just sadly didn't go our way."

This was a strong senior class for the Falcons that got them back to the area round after a two year absence, but Tompkins will also bring back lots of talented underclassman and they hope to build on this strong year.

"It started all the way last year at the end of the season," Jones said. "They all took on the responsibility and they led the way to this. They had a great season and there's 19 of them and I can't say enough about them. They're an amazing group of men that is going to do some amazing things."

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wholeheartedly believed that," said Seven Lakes head coach Jimmy Krueger. "He's been clutch as can be. It's amazing when you have so many talented field players but then someone who's just as clutch behind them. It gives you layers and I'm so proud of Ben and all of the guys out there."

It was a hard-fought game where both teams took it to each other and had chances to win. Seven Lakes had to overcome an early goal and through regular and extra time both teams continued to create chances and tried to find a winner, with it having to be decided in penalties.

"These guys played for one another and put together such a good performance against a great team," said Jordan head coach Jason Meekins. Both teams had every chance to win the game and I'm just so proud of this group. I love these guys and I appreciate everything they gave. They battled with everything they had tonight."

Jordan jumped on an early chance and took the lead just four minutes into the game when a ball came loose on the right side of Seven Lakes' 18-yard box and it fell to Marcelo Ojeda, who made no mistakes and put it in the back of the net.

The early goal allowed Jordan to play deeper and let Seven Lakes bring the game to them. The Warriors played on the counter-attack and it worked well as they continued to create chances. Seven Lakes dominated possession in the first half but struggled to create chances.

Things shifted as soon as the teams



Daniel Ejerenwa controls a ball during Monday's Region III-6A Quarterfinal between Seven Lakes and Jordan.

came out for the second half. Seven Lakes created chances left and right to start the half and it paid off in the 54th minute, when the Spartans earned a free kick from 32-yards out. Aiden Morrison stepped up and lifted a dangerous ball into the area that went over the keepers head and into the back of the net to tie things.

"It was hard because we felt like we were dominating the whole game, but that's soccer sometimes — they got one shot and made a goal out of it," Morrison said. "I was just glad we kept our composure and we trusted ourselves because we knew we would find a way to tie it up eventually."

Seven Lakes kept pouring the pressure on but Jordan answered back with counters. Neither could get a ball in the back of the net for the rest of regulation or in extra time despite the chances and it set up the penalty shootout.

Morrison got Katy off on the right foot, converting his penalty, and Aviles Vera gave the Spartans an early advantage, saving Jordan's first attempt. Both teams had their second attempts saved and both converted on both their third and fourth attempts. Aviles Vera then came up as the fifth penalty taker and sealed the win putting it past the keeper to win it.

"I've always wanted to take a penalty," Aviles Vera said. "I've always asked the coaches if I could take one and tried to show them that I could. They trusted me and I'm just so glad that I scored and was able to celebrate."

With the win, the Spartans advance to the Region III-6A Tournament for the third straight year, as they try to get back to the state tournament.

"The goal all year has been to get back to state and win it," Aviles Vera said. "This is the next step towards that. We just have to rest, prepare ourselves and be ready for everything this weekend."



Beb Aviles Vera celebrates with Sean Carlos Rivera after scoring a game winning penalty during Monday's Region III-6A Quarterfinal between Seven Lakes and Jordan.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT TO AMEND THE MAJOR THOROUGHFARE PLAN/MAP FILED FOR RECORD WITH THE COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE

APPLICATION: Maple Park Development LLC, owner(s), are requesting to be allowed to amend The Major Thoroughfare Plan/Map as noted in the application for Maple Park, Property ID# 40208. The amendment will realign the future route of Royal Road from the center of the subject tract to its southern boundary and will keep Stalknecht Rd in its current configuration instead of introducing a new alignment that deviates from the existing paving. The proposed, unnamed future thoroughfare northwest of Royal Road will end in a T-intersection instead of extending further south through the adjacent properties.

This amendment request, if approved, will affect the applicant's property as well as surrounding tracts to the east, south, and west.

PUBLIC HEARING: A public hearing will be held during the regular session of Commissioners' Court on April 17th at 9:00am at the Waller County Joe Kuciamba Annex, 425 FM 1488 Hempstead, Texas 77445.

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