

MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER



SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL

Cabrillo College midfielder Miguel Acero goes high for a bicycle kick in front of the Canada goal on Tuesday in Aptos to open the Seahawks' season.

# TAKING THE CHANCE

Seahawks capitalize on scoring opportunities in first half to win season opener over Canada



SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL

Cabrillo forward Leopoldo Flores gets a shot on goal past a Canada defender.

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APTOS — It wasn't as if the Cabrillo men's soccer team dominated the first half of its season opener Tuesday night against visiting Canada College.

But finding the back of the net on 50 percent of their first-half scoring chances was enough for the Seahawks to start the season off on the right foot.

Freshman midfielder Miguel Acero laced a liner to the top right corner in the 8th minute and Hamza Al Haidiri added what would be the game-winner just



**CABRILLO 2,  
CANADA 1**

**FRIDAY'S  
GAME:** Cabrillo  
vs. Fresno  
at Hartnell  
**TIME:** 1 p.m.

before halftime, as Cabrillo staved off a second-half push by Canada to earn a 2-1 victory in non-division play.

The win ends Cabrillo's three-game losing streak to Canada, which had won the last three meetings by a 7-1 margin. Tuesday's victory was the Seahawks' first over the Redwood City junior college since Nov. 4, 2008 — a 4-0 win during a season in which Cabrillo went 15-3-3 overall.

"We scored two of the four opportunities in the first half," Cabrillo

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## SEAHAWKS

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coach Paolo Carbone said following the game, which was the season opener for both teams. "As a coach, I'm happy with that.

"In the second half, I wasn't too happy because I thought we should have managed the game a little bit better. But again, it's very early in the season, and I give that to them."

Following Cabrillo's two-goal lead at halftime, Canada managed to cut the deficit in half in the 58th minute when Sebi Rosales' through ball from near midfield resulted in a favorable one-on-one situation for Luis Sanchez, who beat his defender and quickly lifted a shot to the right corner of the net.

The momentum of the goal never transpired for the Colts, though. In fact, Canada was held without a shot on net for the next 33 minutes of regulation.

Cabrillo eventually settled into a game of ball possession,



SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL

Cabrillo defender Riley Stevens dribbles the ball past the Seahawks' bench.

including one episode of keep away that ate up approximately five minutes of clock time.

Carbone is looking for more consistency in that department, however.

"Once we had the lead, we have to work it out on game management," Carbone said. "But you have to be smart because, again, early in the season, the fitness level isn't there yet. So they did pretty

well at times, but we have to be more consistent."

Canada appeared to control the midfield early on in the game, but the team's first shot on net didn't come until the 12th minute.

By then, Cabrillo already led 1-0. Coming down field in transition, Seahawks Geovanni Robledo and Frank Murillo executed a give-and-go pass on the left side, with Robledo receiving Murillo's offering

20 yards out in the center of the field. Robledo's contested one-timer, though, banked off the crossbar.

Enter Acero. The freshman from Watsonville followed the play and connected on an immediate rebound shot just eight minutes into the game.

Cabrillo's second goal didn't come for another 36 minutes, when Acero had the ball at the 18 and could have taken a low-percentage shot on net. Instead, he drew in a defender and passed ahead to his right, finding Al Haidiri for a much-needed insurance score.

The halftime whistle sounded less than a minute later, with Canada trailing somewhat surprisingly by two goals — after the Colts produced back-to-back opportunities at the tail end of the first half, including one rebound shot inside the box that sailed high and over keeper Cesar Rocha.

"Two beautiful goals," Carbone said. "But overall for the first game, I'm pretty happy. We have to work on our fitness, but I'll take 2-1."