KNIGHTS GRAB TOP SPOT IN POLL

JC SOCCER

4-minute span dooms Seahawks

West Valley notches two quick goals in 2nd half

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APTOS — Even with his sensational play, Cabrillo College goalie David Munoz couldn’t prevent the men’s soccer team from suffering the loss Tuesday night against powerful West Valley.

Still, he kept the score respectable.

Munoz made nine saves as the visiting Vikings bombarded Cabrillo’s goal and scored twice in a four-minute span early in the second half for a 2-1 win in a Coast Conference crossover game at Carl Conelly

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Stadium.

“Simple mistakes are costing us goals, and games, too,” Munoz said.

Sean Hansen headed in a corner kick from teammate Jorge Salazar in the 48th minute to give West Valley (8-3-1, 6-0) — the leader in the South Division — a short-lived, 1-0 lead.

Andoni Trejo gathered a turnover and tied the score two minutes later for Cabrillo (5-7-1, 3-3), which in second place behind Las Positas in the North Division.

“We tied the game, it was no time to be confident,” Seahawks forward Adrian Vasquez said. “because the other team is frustrated and wanting to score. They reacted, took the goal, and we couldn’t get back in the game.”

The Seahawks, seemingly had barely finished celebrating when speedy Vikings freshman forward Owubemigna Hamzat delivered, what held up as, the game-winning goal.

After gathering a pass near midfield, he dribbled through and around four Seahawks defenders before rocketing a shot past Munoz in the 54th minute.

“I think he’s a tremendous prospect,” said longtime Vikings coach Gaspar Silveira. “He’s really strong and quick and technically pretty good.”

Cabrillo struggled to string passes together for much of the game. The Seahawks dominated possession in the final 10 minutes, but they couldn’t find the back of the net.

Vasquez and teammate Giovanni Giattino — who have scored a combined 19 goals — didn’t get a shot on goal the entire game.

“We made two defensive mistakes that we cannot afford to do,” said Seahawks coach Paolino Carbone, who has led his team to the NorCal playoffs the past two seasons. “The first goal came on a set piece, and the second goal was a team mistake.”

Still, Munoz believes the Seahawks showed something positive in the loss.

“They’re one of the top teams,” Munoz said. “If we can hang with them, we can hang with anybody.”

The teams played a scoreless first half, but West Valley — which has made the playoffs the past 10 years under Silveira — dominated play.

Munoz, a sophomore out of Watsonville, made five saves in the opening 45 minutes, while Vikings keeper Jose Majano made none, though the Seahawks pressured twice and create a couple of corner kicks.

Hamzat started several of his team’s runs on the right wing, and teammate Eugene Rivera hit the post on one of his shots.

It was a chippy opening half with two yellow cards given to Cabrillo and one to West Valley for unsafe play.

Cabrillo was handed a third yellow in the second half.

Cabrillo midfielder David Mondragon, a sophomore forward out of Soquel, escaped injury. He was pushed out-of-bounds while pursuing the ball and slammed into a metal hand rail on the nearby bleachers.

Luckily for Mondragon, the railing had a cushioned pad to protect players for such situations.