

Fayette Spoils Morrow Playoff Hopes

By LEE KOLB

Sports Correspondent

MORROW — The Fayette County Tigers edged out the Morrow Mustangs 4-3 Tuesday afternoon, securing for themselves second place in the Metro South Soccer League and dashing Morrow's hopes for a spot in the post-season playoffs.

Tiger coach Russell Fuller attributed the victory to hard work and cooperation amongst his players. "I was very pleased by the way that we played, because Morrow played an outstanding game today, and I was excited that we could play just one step ahead of them," he said.

Fayette's Jason Seebly scored in the first minutes of the game. Both teams fought hard for control but most of the first half action took place in Tiger territory.

When they could, the Tigers worked the ball down the field into a tight Morrow defense. The Mustangs controlled the ball on their own turf, and good offensive tactics enabled Mustang players Greg McGaha and Jimmy Crane to slip a goal each by Fayette goalie Shane Norris. Crane and Ray Doran made assists on the plays.

THE TIGERS at first did not perform well offensively. Except for Seebly's score at the start, most Tiger activity near the Morrow goal came in short, frantic bursts before being repulsed back down the field by the excellent ball handling of the Mustangs.

The Tigers could get the ball down the field towards the Morrow goal but their lack of offensive coordination gave the Mustangs opportunities to drive deep into Tiger territory. The first half ended Morrow 2, Fayette 1.

But the Mustangs could not hold their advantage into the second half. The Mustangs successfully brought the ball onto



Staff Photo By John Bazemore

MUSTANG GREG NIDIFFER RACES KERRY EVERT (11)
Evert Netted Key Second-Half Goal In League Showdown

Fayette's ground but failed to press on to score. Fayette's Kerry Evert knotted it at 2-2 several minutes into the half.

Both teams shifted into higher gears after Evert's goal. Feroocious clashes in midfield between Mustang offense and Tiger defense knocked the ball back and forth, neither side besting the other — but most of the play swirled around the Fayette goal, as in the first half.

Tiger Eric Gregory soon broke the deadlock with a driving kick into the Morrow net. Morrow worked diligently to get the ball down the field, but Fayette's Blake Hornbuckle scored again, leaving the Mustangs trailing behind the Tigers by two goals.

"We can't give up four goals and expect to beat anybody," said Morrow coach Jerry Moore.

WITH ABOUT 10 minutes of



Staff Photo By John Bazemore

MORROW'S GREG MCGAHA (4) BATTLES JASON SEEBLY (12)
Both Scored Goals In The First Half

play remaining Mustang Brian Moore fanned his teams' hopes for recovery with a successful penalty kick.

Morrow made several excellent shots that were foiled by Fayette's long-kicking goalie Shane Norris in the last few minutes of the game.

Both Mustang and Tiger players distinguished themselves in the fast-paced competition. In addition to the

three Morrow goals, McGaha, Crane, Moore also made attempts during the first half, and the second half attempts were made by Crane, Moore, and substitute Greg Nidiffer.

Fayette's Evert, Seebly, Drew Uhler, Hornbuckle, and Jason Courington attempted goals in the first half and Evert, Seebly, Gregory, and Hornbuckle also made the attempts of the second half.