

Rochester, Mich. - Oakland extended their winning streak to three straight games as the Golden Grizzlies knocked off the Loyola Chicago Ramblers 2-1 in a late game thriller!

While the first 13 minutes were dominated by the Ramblers it was the Golden Grizzlies who got the first good look on goal of the game as Jack Klomparens took a one-touch shot that aired just over the crossbar. At the 22 minute mark the Ramblers responded with an opportunity of their own as Luka Ivancic's shot missed high right of the goal.

The Ramblers had another opportunity right before the half at the 42 minute mark as Angel Mendez had a shot on goal where Oakland Goalie Aiden Smith made a spectacular leaping save.

At the end of the first half neither the Golden Grizzlies nor Ramblers could get on the board. Both teams in the opening half were somewhat passive, waiting for the right moment to strike.

The Ramblers seemed to be in Oakland's half through most of the first frame, however, the Golden Grizzlies made sure that the Ramblers didn't capitalize with any points on those opportunities with stout defense, highlighted by a bevy of plays made by Zach Townsend and Malik Sylvester on the back line.

The Ramblers led in shots (4-to-3), shots on goal (2-to-0), and corners (4-to-1) after the first 45 minutes of play.

Oakland played strong defensively in the first half as the Golden Grizzlies made sure to limit the Ramblers ability to shoot at Oakland Goalkeeper Aiden Smith who made his first start of the season. When the Ramblers challenged Smith, he was up for the challenge securing two saves in the first half.

Just when it seemed like both teams lost all offensive momentum in this game, the Golden Grizzlies struck gold in the 63rd minute when Kevin Hubble made a great pass to Lejs Pilcanic who scored goal number three on the season to give Oakland a 1-0 lead.

With the game winding down, the Ramblers answered the Oakland goal at the 74 minute mark as Angel Mendez capitalized on a Ramblers corner pass to squeeze the ball into the bottom left corner of the net to tie the score at one apiece.

As the game looked like it was headed towards a draw, Oakland came up big in the 83rd minute as Andrew Darakdjian drew a Loyola penalty in their box, setting the Golden Grizzlies up for a penalty kick. Darakdjian himself would take the PK, striking a missile into the back of the net, scoring his first goal of the season and the game-winner to give Oakland the 2-1 victory.

In a game where the Ramblers led in shots (9-7), shots on goal (4-2), and corners (7-2) it was all about the Golden Grizzlies effort and efficiency to find a way to come out on top.

The Golden Grizzlies will look to extend their winning streak, and resume Horizon League play, on Saturday Sep. 21 at 1 p.m. when they head to Northern Kentucky to take on the Norse.