

## FALL 2009 Season



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September 13, 2009

Physical...wet....and came up short

As the coach and team manager arrived in Braintree, they received calls via their cell phones informing them that the game was cancelled. With 10 cars on Rt. 93 filled with Pioneer players, how upsetting is that? The rules clearly state that the field must be cancelled by 10am and had the Pioneers been notified in a timely manner, they would not have been on the road at all.

Coach Vinny was able to meet up with the Scorpions' coach and they decided to play the game by sweeping a few puddles on one side of the field. By this time, the Pioneer players had been warming up for 45 minutes and now had to wait an additional 30 minutes for the game to finally start.

The Pioneers had great opportunities in the first half by hitting the inside of the post, which unfortunately was not called a goal. The Scorpions scored a questionable off-sides goal which the coach himself called offsidess; and they later scored a nice goal with 10 minutes left in the first half to make it 2-0.

In the second half, the Scorpions had a penalty shot which was fortunately saved by our goalkeeper. The Pioneers pressured left and right and dominated that last 20 minutes in the Scorpions' half but were unsuccessful in placing it in the net.

Coach Vinny commented, "This is a first place team and a team who won the KC Andre Cup. They are physically strong and gave us a run for our money until we woke up and turned it into an evenly physical game for both sides. And although we were unable to capitalize for a goal, we did play very well and I am happy with the play. Coming here early, not seeing a team at the field, and waiting around an extra 45 minutes isn't a good sign. It was very unorganized, but at least we were able to play and not have to drive another hour and half for nothing."



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Sunday May 17, 2009 1:00, Williston Northampton School

Pioneers: 2 Western United: 0  
**Secures 4<sup>th</sup> place in the BLUE division**

Despite a late night out at the New England Revolution game the previous evening, the Pioneers showed they were ready to play when they took to the turf at Williston Northampton School on Sunday May 17, 2009.

The Pioneers presented a solid defense but had only a few opportunities before the 16-minutes mark when the Pioneers were finally able to put one away. The captains maintained focus and momentum, keeping the team in attack mode and leaving the half-time score at 1-0.

The Pioneers energetically took to the field during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, making good on an opportunity for a direct shot to the goal that gave them a 2-0 lead. Western United then made the most of the remaining 8 minutes as they pressured and tried to poke holes in the Pioneers' defense strategy. With a great save by the Pioneer goalie and the clock in their favor, the Pioneers not only secured a 4<sup>th</sup> place spot in the Blue division, but their Fall 2010 position in the Blue Division as well.

"I was very proud today because we are a very physical team that came out to play. As I've been saying all along.....the goals will come. They have to. We work hard at practice and the Pioneers are truly a good team. We can beat anyone in this division and be in first place. I now look forward to us working on winning the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual New England Cape Cod Soccer Tournament as well as the KC Andre Cup. The season isn't over for us yet. We have more to prove." said Coach Vinny



Sunday May 10, 2009 1:00, Hobomock, MA

Pioneers: 0 Scorpions: 0

**Great Game to Watch for a NIL- NIL**

Although resulting in a scoreless game, Sunday's game was a great game to watch! The Scorpions are a tough team and obviously on the hunt for first place, but the Pioneers did their job, working the ball and keeping it in front of them for most of the game. The defense was solid and the midfield played a close-knit defense that stalled all Scorpion attempts to get close to the Pioneers goal. The Pioneers continued to apply pressure throughout the game but the Scorpions made some timely saves. Pioneers walked away earning 1 point once again.



**May 3, 2009 4:30pm Anna Dias Field, Ludlow.  
CHANCES..**

Some times things aren't as easy as they look. The Junior Pioneers came home to face the RI Rays on a damp, misty Sunday afternoon. Immediately off the bench, the Juniors took control of the ball and within 10 minutes were able to shoot left and right with one shot hitting the post. The Juniors continued to force shots on the RI Rays net, but despite 9 opportunities, the Juniors tied 0-0 at half-time.

Again in the second half, the Juniors blasted a couple of shots in front the net without success, and no goals were scored until the 9<sup>th</sup> minute mark. The scoring goal from the left side, crossed the middle, and with a shot to the upper right hand corner, the Juniors took the lead 1-0. Not to be outdone and in less than a minute, the RI Rays came down and popped a goal in the upper left hand corner effectively tying the game. With consistent pressure throughout the half, the Juniors walked off the field with one point.

Coach Vinny commented: "The girls played well. The first half was better than the second even though we scored in the second. Finishing is very crucial but they did what I asked them to do. We just didn't get the breaks today."



**April 26, 2009 1:00pm Flerra Field, Ludlow.  
Zero goals....Zero Points..**

This week the Pioneers came out strong off the whistle and dominated the game. But once the ball broke by the defense, the Pioneers allowed an auto-goal and the Stars went up 1-0. It seemed as though the girls needed it to be half time at that point and with 4 minutes remaining in the first half, the Stars were able to take a 2-0 lead.

The Pioneers turned up the pressure again in the second half, using every opportunity for great passes and high dropped balls on the 20 yard, unfortunately with no results. It appeared that it just wasn't going to fall into the Pioneers' lap on this day. With no apparent breaks for the Pioneers once again in

the second half, the Stars took the 3 points with an offside goal, scoring a 3-0 win over the Pioneers.

"We beat ourselves today" commented Coach Vinny. "It was a hot day, but it was hot for both teams. That first goal put a damper on our performance throughout the rest of the first. We had possession of the ball a lot, but goals weren't created this time. The score doesn't truly reflect the game. If we were to award the win to the team who had the highest percentage of possession over the ball in the last two games, we would have walked away from the last two with 6 points." I look forward to playing at home next week against the RI Rays and we will work hard this week to prepare.



**April 19, 2009 1:00pm Citizens Field, Ludlow.  
The U-11's tied STARS team.**

It was a perfect soccer day and when the start-up whistle blew, the Stars took immediate control. They had possession of the ball for the first 4 minutes and scored an unanswered goal against the Junior Pioneers. That's when the Junior Pioneers lifted their heads and began to take charge, stealing back control of the game for the remainder of the first half. But despite numerous opportunities to tie the game, the pioneers went into half time down 1-0.

Maintaining control in the second half allowed the Junior Pioneers a total of 8 attempts at the goal, and finally, in a beautiful sequence of passing, they tied the score at the 10 minutes mark. With shots taken left and right and high over the goal, the Pioneers walked off the field earning 1 pt in the Blue Division.

Remarked Coach Gabriello: "We came out flat in the first 5 minutes but dominated 90% of the entire game. Although our finishing needs to be improved, we created lots of opportunities and I am happy about the creation of those opportunities. I am confident we will improve as the season progresses."



**Sunday, April 5, 2009  
Jr. Pioneers- 1 / NE Aztecs- 2**

The Jr. Pioneers came to play on Sunday, defending their territory as the NE Aztecs spent the first 15 minutes focusing pressure down the middle. This allowed the NE Aztecs an opportunity to take a shot from the 18, striking the upper post. The Jr. Pioneers quickly re-gained their composure and rallied offensively for the remainder of the first half, freezing the half-time scoreboard at 0-0.

The NE Aztecs returned with a quick, strong attack and in the first minute of the second half, established a 1-0 lead. Recovering, the Jr. Pioneers responded with tenacity, maintaining a back and forth possession and providing a nail-biting second half for both teams. The NE Aztecs were then able to score their second goal but that didn't prevent the Jr. Pioneers from raising the bar. They had to work hard to score a goal at the 16 minutes mark!

Said coach Gabriello, "Every single girl on the team played hard and deserved to win that game. Unfortunately, sometimes soccer doesn't work that way. It's always a very proud moment when the coach from an opposing team recognizes your team's abilities and comments on how well they represented themselves. I want to make sure that the team knows that I have faith and confidence in every one of them. I also want to remind everyone that I believe we are better, and can beat any U11 team in this region. It's just a matter of which team shows up to play. If we play to our potential, we could be unstoppable!"



**Home Opener  
March 29, 2009 Anna Dias Fields**

**TEAM CHARACTER 'PUT TO THE TEST'**

The Junior Pioneers were 'put to the test' on Sunday when after maintaining possession of the ball during most of the first half, they were hit with an unexpected counter attack by the opposition. The NE Aztecs took a surprise lead at half-time when a soft-rolling corner ball managed to strike the post and tip into the net. However, a combination of determination and well-choreographed teamwork lead to a five-player pass to even the score within the first five minutes of the 2nd half.

The Junior Pioneers continued to tip the scales throughout the remainder of the game, scoring the three-point lead that would secure them their place in the Blue Division. Commented Junior Pioneers coach Vinny Gabriello, "This was a true test of team character. They were down 0-1 at half-time and it was their tremendous

determination and pride that lead them to victory. It was a physical game and the Pioneers took the challenge. Overall the team spirit was blooming on the field. It's hard to score when there are seven to eight players defending and standing in the goal box! But we were able to get through that and score two goals in the second."