

LANCASTER, MA. - In the Final 4 Mass. State Cup Tournament, your WMASS Pioneers fell 1-0 to the always brutally tough North Shore United Club in a red-eye morning match at Citizens Bank Soccer Complex today.

The U-13 Jr. Pioneers end the 2008-09 season with a overall winning record of 19-15-2, after 36 fall and spring outdoor matches.

After a rough spring start, the team stayed together and turned the spring season around with big wins in State Cup match play and in doing so, the club went back to another Final 4, and the team maintains D1 status.

All players deserve a well-round of applause for their true desire and grit this season.

Well done Pioneers !

May 31, 2009

### **Pack your bags for West Virginia**

LANCASTER, MA. - From the start of the game, right up to to last seconds of the game, your Pioneers played confidently for 70 full minutes of action as a team and beat the United Crusaders SC 4-2 today @ Citizen's Park, and in doing so, the team astonishingly goes back to the Final 4 in the Massachusetts State Cup Tournament just like last season.

Who would of thunk it, only weeks ago the club was mired in a losing streak, only to rise from the ashes and preform to their best capabilities at the right time of the season, to again come alive and again, shock the Mass. state soccer world that the WMASS Pioneers are back once again to crash the Boston tea party.

The Pioneers will take on state-wide rival North Shore United at a 8:00 AM match in the Mass. Cup Final 4 on Saturday, June 13th, back @ Citizen's Bank Complex.

The winner then takes on Benfica USA or Greater Boston Bolts in the Mass, State Cup U-13 Championship on Sunday, June, 14th @ 9:00 AM. The Mass. State Cup winner then goes onto the US Regional 1 National Championships in Huntington, West Virginia on the campus of Marshal University July 2th-6th. Then it is back to our home away from home for the US Nationals Cup @ Citizen's Park in last July. With home field advantage once again, the Pioneers become US champs and then the club advances to the World U-13 Cup Championship Finals in mid-August in Dublin, Ireland.

May 30, 2009

### **Benfica, NSU & Boston Bolts all clinch...now one spot remains...**

LANCASTER, MA. - According to the Mass. Cup web-site, Benfica USA, North Shore United and the Greater Boston Bolts have virtually all clinched bids to the Final 4.

The winner between the Pioneers and the United Crusaders SC gets the last bid to the big-time dance.

If there is a tie in tomorrow's match, the Pioneers will advance with a total of 4 points, compared to UCSC which would have only 2 points.

Virtually impossible however is, that the Fuller Hamlets could shockingly upset Benfica USA by at least 7 goals tomorrow, and if the Pioneers do tie, everything then goes to the devil of Mass. Cup details...and who knows....?

The Pioneers did win the head to head tie-breaker with the Hamlets....

But, in any case, ...Pioneers fans & players.....just listen to those famous by-gone-words spoken by of the Oakland Raiders owner of the National Football League....

"....Just WIN....baby....."

May 30, 2009

### **Pioneers clip Fuller Hamlets 1-0**

LANCASTER, MA. - With the chips being down, after just a tough loss to Benfica USA in the morning match, the Pioneers rose up and decided to let the chips fall where they may, and in doing so, they dumped the Fuller Hamlets of the Blackstone Valley of Southern Worcester County 1-0 this afternoon in the 2nd match of the Massachusetts State Cup Final 8 with low humidity and temperatures in the balmy low 70's under gorgeous sunny blue skies in New England.

The huge win propels the WMASS Pioneers (1-1), to tomorrow 3rd and final match of the Elite 8 vs. the United Crusaders SC (0-1-1), of Plymouth County, MA.

A win tomorrow clinches a Final 4 berth, for a 2nd straight season. (Top 2 teams out of this Group of 4 clubs advances.)

A tie tomorrow might clinch, but that depends on Benfica USA (2-0-0) vs. the Hamlets (0-1-1), match tomorrow.

A lose tomorrow gets UCSC into the all important 2nd place berth, there by eliminating the Pioneers.

Sounds like the Pioneers (18-14-2), have one big Mass. State Cup match tomorrow ahead of them, indeed.

May 30, 2009

### **Pioneers niped again by Benfica USA**

LANCASTER. MA. - The WMASS Pioneers lost this morning 3-2 to Benfica USA in their first of 3 matches in the Mass. State Cup Final 8 this weekend @ Citizens.

The next 2 games are vs. the Fuller Hamlets & the United Crusaders.

The Pioneers overall record falls to 17-14-2 for the 2008-09 season.

May 26, 2009

**Battle loss...however huge big-time war still remains..**

LANCASTER, MA. - Even though your WMASS Pioneers took it on the chin with the 4-3 loss to Western United in the championship match this past weekend in the Delta Tournament finals, the games certainly could provide another planned spring-board in the State Cup Final 8 this next weekend once again, like last season tremendous run at the MASS. trophy @ Citizens.

The club went 3-1 in the Delta Invitational over Memorial Day weekend and showed the powers to be at Citizen's Park that the Pioneers will be one tough out once again, in the big-time glow and tough competition staged @ the complex over this past weekend.

THIS FULL SEASON.....

Your Pioneers, after 32 matches in the 2008-09 season vs. one of the brutality toughest schedules in New England; their overall winning record now stands @ 17-13-2 and the Mass. State Cup Elite 8 still awaits.

LAST YEAR ....the final overall winning record was 18-9-6, for your club, but, half the schedule was against tough MAPLE D2 competition, compared to a full season in MAPLE vs. D1 elite-top competition this season.

HUGE WINNING TRADITION....continues...it does not matter.

Your Pioneers are a experienced traditional proud winning program, with hopefully the best to come this weekend @ Citizen's, the Pioneers new home away from home.

May 17, 2009

**HUGE BREAKING SOCCER NEWS BRIEF.....**

LUDLOW, MA. - In what could possibly happen... could again....possibly happen... in another incredible run, with staying power attached and a patten yearly run at the Mass. State Cup, the Pioneers defeated local nemeses Western United today at Lusitano Stadium 3-1, before a jovial home crowd to finish up the final regular season MAPLE 2009 spring season.

With the huge win, it looks like the club can stunningly remain in DI next year, according to newly released information by MAPLE only minutes ago tonight.

No one really know for sure, but the Pioneers could again have every opponent right where the want them, as the Delta Invitational awaits this weekend and the Mass. State Cup the following weekend, now with at least 6 games remaining at Citizen's Park.

More huge breaking soccer news as information and other blog reports become available with web-site info. on the big win today..

Stayed tuned Pioneers Nation....with updates...and all names of players who scored and other soccer interesting tidbits.

SOCCER TIDBITS # 1-----one that cannot be ignored....

FACT.....over 4 seasons of play @ the Stadium your beloved Pioneers are 11-2-2 in 15 matches.....home cooking indeed !

May 12, 2009

### **PREPARATIONS CONTINUED...**

LUDLOW, MA. - Even though the WMASS Pioneers have been unlucky with the crazy bounces of the soccer ball, the teams future remains bright this current month with the huge win in the Mass. State Cup Sweet 16 over Valeo FC last weekend that has propelled the club to the Mass. State Cup Final 8 once again in 2 weekends from now at Citizen's.

The Pioneers have been broad-sided with 2 controversial goals in 2 loses, 1-0 each vs. D1 Blackwatch and Benfica USA recently.

Despite all the unluckiness that comes with this frustrating game at times, the real facts are the Pioneers with their teams true grit and determination are still in a real positive position in the post-season seedings, not unlike the 2 previous years teams, who had positioned themselves likewise, emulating both past years on incredible stunning finishes in Cup play.

With Western United coming to town this Sunday, the Delta Tourney awaiting, and the Mass. State Cup Final 8 just around the corner, some expert soccer observes think the Pioneers can still possibly shock the WORLD once again with the overall talent that they have shown at certain times this season combined with the players experience of being there in the stretch drive in previous seasons.



May 8, 2009

### **PREPARATIONS FOR 2009 MEMORIAL DAY TOURNEY**

LANCASTER, MA. - The WMASS Pioneers are ready to defend their Championship Title in the 2nd annual Delta FC Memorial Day Weekend Tourney event at Citizens Bank.

Last year, the Pioneers defeated North Shore in the Semi-finals on the way to win the 1st annual Delta Invitational Tournament.

On Sat. May 23 at the crack of dawn, the Pioneers play the Boston Blast at 7:30 AM.

A 2nd match @ 11:15 AM the Pioneers face Inter Boston SC.  
Then on Sunday May 24, the Pioneers @ 1:00 PM play the New England Aztec's Soccer Club.  
The top winner out of those 3 matches in the 4 team Group advances to the Finals vs.  
another Group of 4 clubs that will play for all the marbles.

All 3 teams that the Pioneers face in their Group play in the Mass. Premier League.  
The Championship Finals are at 4:10 PM on Sunday May 24th.  
No games are scheduled for Monday, May 25.

May 3, 2009

### **PIONEERS LOOK AHEAD TO BENFICA SA**

LUDLOW, MA. - With a significant glowing win in the Mass. State Cup qualifier match on Friday night, the Pioneers played down and loss to the Greater Boston Bolts today 4-0 at Anna Dias.

Now for the Pioneers, it is onto spring MAPLE undefeated Benfica USA ( that the club proudly promotes has a professional soccer affiliation with the world-wide known futbol power S. L. Benfica of Lisbon, Portugal) next Sunday in Eastern Mass.

On May 30-31, the Pioneers (13-11-2 overall, 1-0 State Cup ) are in the MASS.. State Cup Elite 8 finals and will play a 3 match round robin tournament vs. Benifica USA once again, the Fuller Hamlets and the Crusaders who recently upset Western United yesterday afternoon at the Oxbow in Northampton in another State Cup qualifier match.

The top 2 team of that group of 4 clubs, will advance and play in the Mass. State Cup Championship semi-finals the following weekend in Lancaster MA.

The winner of the MASS. CUP travels to West Virginia in early July for the U.S. Regional Cup with that hopeful MASS. winner returning then to Massachusetts and being the host team and winning the National Title in their home state in late July in the U-13 National U.S. Finals at Citizens Bank Soccer Complex.

May 1, 2009

### **HUGE BREAKING SOCCER NEWS....**

LUDLOW, MA - The Western Mass. U-13 Jr. Pioneers defeated Valeo FC of Boston, 2-1 this late afternoon, in a State Cup qualifier match that sends the club to the Massachusetts Final 8 out of nearly 40 soccer clubs that qualify from the start of last season.

Dave Serafino of Springfield and Jeff Danek of Ludlow, scored as the Pioneers held on, for their biggest win of the 2008-09 season.

More detailed information on the huge win, will be forthcoming this week.

This Sunday, the Pioneers, (13-10-2, overall 1-0 State Cup) entertain the Greater Boston Bolts in a MAPLE regular season match.

Greater Boston has already qualified for the Mass. State Cup play in the Elite 8 tournament round robin playoffs on May 30-31 at Citizens Bank Soccer Complex in Lancaster.

The winner of the Mass. State Cup travels to West Virginia for a Regional Championship, with the USA National Championship Finals, incredibly back in Citizens Park in late July.

April 26, 2009

### **Pioneers Look Ahead to Friday Night After Going To Seekonk.**

SEEKONK, MA. - Under unusually hot record breaking temperatures nearing 90 degrees on the pitch on the Mass. - RI state border, the WMASS Pioneers lost to Blackwatch Soccer Club 1-0 on a controversial goal that Pioneers Goalie Ben Murphy made a spectacular save on, from a cross, that was headed, that the side line referee standing nearly 30 yards away called the ball over the goal line, when in fact, Murphy of Monson, saved the ball on the goal line.

Andre Ferreira of Ludlow, hit the post in the closing minutes, as the Pioneers played their best soccer for the last 10 minutes of the game but, they ran out of time under the hot sun in the extreme April heat.

The Pioneers must look forward to the MASS State Cup match this Friday vs. Valeo FC of Boston in Ludlow.

Then the Pioneers (12-10-2 overall 08-09 season, 0-3-1 spring MAPLE record) play the Greater Boston Bolts on Sunday in Ludlow.

April 19, 2009

### **STARS come out ahead**

LANCASTER, MASS. - The Western Mass. Pioneers U-13 boys soccer club lost to the Stars of Mass. 2-0 at Citizen's Bank Soccer Complex today.

Next Sunday, the Pioneers go on the road and face Blackwatch Soccer Club with players from South Eastern MA. & the State of Rhode Island.

The Pioneers now stand 12-9-2 overall, 0-2-1 in MAPLE, so far this spring.

The team history over the last 3 seasons, is that the club has started off slow in the fall and spring seasons, then the team catching their wind, then making a huge run at the end of the spring season in the incredible pursue of the Mass. State Cup.

April 5, 2008

### **EMASS. ties WMASS. 1-1**

LUDLOW MASS. - The WMASS Pioneers up at half-time by 1 goal, could not hold on, and settled for a 1-1 tie vs. Eastern Mass. SC this past weekend, despite controlling the game for the most part even though EMASS has real talent.

Dave Serafino of Springfield, scored in the first half in the spring home opener for the Pioneers.

With 6 minutes to go, EMASS scored on a corner kick, that deflected, to the tallest player in MAPLE, and he finished the play off sending the EMASS team, off to a well-earned tie, (never giving up), but, humble respect, that they knew, they might have tied a team, that might be a little bit better than, but enjoyed the thrill, of a well earned tie, driving back to Boston.

Up next for the Pioneers (12-8-2, overall, 0-1-1, spring MAPLE,) go on the road next week and play the Stars of Massachusetts, who the Pioneers defeated at Springfield College just 3 weekends ago, in a independent D1 match.

March 29, 2009

### **SPRING OPENER 2009**

WOBURN, MA. - #1 ranked North Shore United defeated the Jr. Pioneers today under windy and rainy conditions 4-1 in the MAPLE spring opener for both clubs.

The power club from the North Shore of Massachusetts scored 3 unanswered goals in the 2nd half, after a 1-1 deadlock tie at half-time.

Offensively, Dave Serafino of Springfield, scored the lone goal for WMASS.

Next Sunday, the Pioneers (0-1 spring MAPLE, 12-8-1 overall 08-09), entertain D1 Eastern Mass. FC in Ludlow.

*Coaches note: The game this Sunday was a very well disputed one against two very good teams. North Shore went up first when a player picked up a defensive clearance and then slipped through the right flank to fire it in past goalkeeper Bailey Gawron. The Junior Pioneers got a goal back when Jeff Danek received a nice pass from newcomer Kyle Coelho and then sent a beautiful through ball to Dave Serafino for a breakaway goal. In the second half the Junior Pioneers started a bit more confident but were unsuccessful on three great opportunities. Then, against the tide, North Shore scored on a corner kick. With that goal, the tables turned for North Shore and they scored two more unanswered goals to make it a final of 4-1. Andre Ferreira was player of the match for the Junior Pioneers. He played the whole game at Right Back and he completely shut down the right flank while still managing to help out on offense. ~Rogerio Mendes~*

March 25, 2009

### **STAE CUP GAME ANNOUNCED**

LUDLOW, MA. - The Jr. Pioneers will play a Challenge 3rd round State Cup match vs. D2 Valeo FC on Friday, May 1st at 5:30 PM at Ana Dias Field.

The game is of huge significance in a one-game-winner-take-all-match on the way to the Mass. State Cup Tournament Finals Rounds being held at Citizen's Bank Soccer Complex on May 30-31 in Lancaster, MA.

The Pioneers received 2 byes in the fall, by virtue on their excellent spring run in last years State Cup Tournament, therefore by-passing early Entry and Challenge Rounds matches.

All Massachusetts State Cup 2009 matches fall under the rules and procedures formula that falls under the National Cup Director, that oversees the Mass. Youth Soccer Association and the U.S. Youth Soccer Association National Championship Series.

The winner of the Mass. State Cup qualifies for the New England Regional Championships and that winner qualifies for the U.S. National Cup Championship Tournament Finals Series held in mid-July in Birmingham, Alabama.

March 21, 2009

### **DOUBLE-HEADER at SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE**



SPRINGFIELD, MA. - The Western Mass. U-13 Jr. Pioneers swept a double-header at Springfield College on Saturday, as the club hosted a pre-season soccer tournament under sunny skies in crisp fresh spring air played on artificial turf.

In the first match in the morning the Pioneers handled FSA of Connecticut 3-1, and in the afternoon match they defeated the Stars of Massachusetts 2-0.

Brian Rossini of Somers, collected 2 goals, with Dave Serafino of Springfield, Andre Ferreira and Jeff Danek, both of Ludlow, scoring 1 goal each as the Pioneers landed 2 impressive victories for the home team.

*Coach's note: The team is playing as if they did not miss a beat through out the unforgiving Winter. There was nice two touch play and very organized defending. Ben Murphy of Monson had two impressive games at right back and in goal. Along with the goal scorers: Nick Forni of Wilbraham, Brian Collamore of Springfield, Adam Goncalves and Jordan Martins both of Ludlow all deserve honorable mention. Great job team!*

*In the game between FSA United and Stars of Mass: Stars of Mass came out victorious with a 1-0 final. It was a very tight and well disputed game.*

*~Roger Mendes~*

The Pioneers overall winning record for the 2008-09 season now stands at 12-7-1.

The club goes on the road this Sunday for the MAPLE spring regular season opener vs. power-rival North Shore United.

North Shore United only has 1 loss in the last 2 years, and that was against the Pioneers in last years Delta Invitational semi-final at Citizen's Bank Soccer Complex.

March 15, 2009

### **PRE SEASON FRIENDSHIP TOURNAMENT**

Woburn, MA - The Western Mass Junior Pioneers U-13 Boys played two friendly matches this weekend at Woburn High School. The first game was played against FC Bruno U-13 Boys of

the MAPLE D3. The Junior Pioneers came out flying on this beautiful Sunday morning and dominated the game. The final was 9-0. Goals scored by Nick Forni, Beraa Ibas, Brian Rossini, Jeff Danek, Bailey Gawron and two goals a piece from David Serafino and Adam Goncalves. Kudos to Diogo Ribeiro and Beraa Ibas for really making a strong contribution in midfield.

In the second match, things got a little tougher as the Junior Pioneers went heads up against a stronger and bigger North Shore United U-14 Boys team of the MAPLE D2. North Shore got on the scoreboard early but the Junior Pioneers did not let up. They tied it up early in the second half with a goal from David Serafino. The older North Shore team got their lead back with three great goals but this year's U-13 Boys pushed on and were able to get one back from Jeff Danek. The final was 2-4. Dan Matias and Jordan Martins were strong in the back and had no fault on any of the goals. Ben Murphy also had two solid games in goal. This coming Saturday, the Junior Pioneers will be playing in a mini round robin friendly against FSA United of Connecticut U-13 and the FC Stars of Mass MAPLE D1 U-13 teams. Games will be played at Springfield College's Irv Schmid Fields

November 16, 2008

### **EM FC STAYS IN TOP DIVISION 1 FOR SPRING 2009**

LANCASTER, MA. - Eastern Mass. FC defeated Bayside SC of Rhode Island 3-1, in penalty kicks after a scoreless game, including 2 scoreless overtimes in a playoff game held at Citizens Bank Soccer Complex on Saturday.

The winner gets D1 status for next spring. The loser gets D2.

EM FC will be the 8th and final team that will play D1 soccer in the spring.

The Stars of Massachusetts won the D2 regular season title and will be promoted to D1 in the spring, rounding out the 8 team division.

WMASS crushed EM FC 5-1 at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow in their stretch run drive, as the Pioneers finished the season on a blistering note going 3-0-1 in their last 4 Mass Premier League matches in the fall to secure a stay in D1 for the spring 2009 season.

The Pioneers finished the fall season with a winning record going (9-6-1 overall & 4-4-1 in the tough MAPLE D1).

The Pioneers opening spring MAPLE match is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 5th vs. a D1 club TBD in March when the schedule is unveiled.

November 9, 2008

### **PIONEERS VICTORIOUS, PROUDLY EARN STAY IN TOP DIVISION**

WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA. - The Western Mass. Pioneers defeated the West Side Bandits 1-0 on Sunday on another beautiful fall day to play soccer.

The win clinches a top division placement for next spring, the ultimate goal for the club from the beginning of the season according to Pioneers Head Coach Roger Mendes. Dave Serafino of Springfield, got the Pioneers on the scoreboard in the first half with a goal after receiving a nifty pass from Troy Nascimento of Ludlow, to put WMASS up 1-0.

That is all the Pioneers needed.

Pioneers net-minder Bailey Gawron of Hampden, got the shutout win, but not before a high arching shot that was labeled for the far top corner, was corralled by the keeper, in the 2nd half that could be called the save of the game if not the save of the year for the Pioneers.

The Pioneers (9-6-1, 4-4-1) can breath a little easier this winter knowing that the last 2 fall season prior the Pioneers could not accomplish top division status in the spring. However in the past 2 springs the club did rebound and were promoted ultimately back up to the top division in the fall.

The Pioneer stay in the top division along with North Shore United, Benfica USA, Greater Boston Bolts, BlackWatch & Western United.

That's pretty good company.

The Pioneers schedule makers are trying to secure a independent game for next Saturday to close out the outdoor fall season.

## **SPECIAL SOCCER REPORT November 2, 2008**

HIS NAME IS JEFF DANEK.... & HIS GAME IS SOCCER...

LUDLOW, MA. - When he joined the Pioneers in the spring of 2008 he looked like a giant among men.

It wasn't until mid-season though, is when Jeff Danek practically took the Pioneers on his back alone into the Mass State Cup Tournament and started showing his incredible scoring arsenal.

Before Danek arrived, the Pioneers had a tough time scoring in the fall of 2007. Since then the Pioneers have been a top 4-6 club in MAPLE.

Last season he tore up the league and was a intricate part of the team winning success and then winning the prestigious Delta Invitational last spring at Citizens Bank Soccer Complex. This year JD is still recognized as one of the top scorers in New England. He as added a nice passing game to his repertoire.

For his part, to his teammates he is recognizes as a gentle giant. He has been known to get his teammates to laugh a bit and has a good sense of humor.

You heard it here first from the field loud-speaker....in a few short years... " Ludlow High School goal scored by #11 Jeff Danek".....

November 2, 2008

### **HUGE 2-2 TIE PROPELS PIONEERS TO POSSIBLE TOP DIVISION STATUS IN SPRING 2009 ??**

**LUDLOW-** The Jrnior Pioneers tied their local rival Western United 2-2 at historic Lusitano Stadium on Sunday in fantastic soccer weather. In the first half, Dave Serafino of Springfield, scored to even the score at 1 just before halftime.

In the 2nd half, Adam Goncalves of Ludlow, scored to put the Pioneers up 2-1, and a great win awaited. But, Western United then pressed the Pioneers and got the equalizer with about 10 minutes remaining in the match. A-win-turned-to-a-tie-and-then-almost-a loss, as WU was awarded a penalty kick, with about 5 minutes left, but the free kick sailed just high and wide and a tie was in the books, and a big tie it turns out to be.

The tie, equaling (1 point ) in the standing is huge as the Pioneers (8-6-1, 3-4-1) are alone in 6th place only one point ahead of Eastern Mass. FC (3-5) who loss 2 games this past weekend.

The top 6 finishing teams in the fall remain in the 1st division in the spring of 2009.

The 7th place team has a post-season playoff match with the 2nd division, 2nd place team in 2 weeks. A win next Sunday in the last regular season match for WMASS vs. the West Side Bandits will clinch a top division placement, and no need for a playoff match. However, anything less then that, the Pioneers leave EM FC last game vs. Greater Boston to determine their fate.

WHAT IF? Soccer thoughts for our Big JD & Company. It's a game of inches. Pioneers like no call.

Pioneers fans did not know, but their high powered offense lead by Jeff Danek and Co. got a little lucky on Sunday. With a WU defender on his back, JD stuffed the ball just under the crossbar right on the goal-line from Adam Goncalves shot to go ahead 2-1. Standing near the line in the stands the linesman referee looked up and told this blogger that the entire ball just crossed the goal-line, and if JD touched it inches before the line, he would have been called off sides and no goal allowed. Good call Ref. !

Down to last match or playoff match in 2 weeks?

The Pioneers travel across the river and face the West Side Bandits (0-8) (who have played very well the last 3-4 games) at West Springfield High School at high noon on Sunday, November 9th.

The Bandits will be looking to make their tough season a little better by knocking off the Pioneers and have local bragging rights throughout the long-cold New England winter.

The Pioneers 2-0-1 in the last 3 matches should be ready and not take anything for granted.

## **SPECIAL SOCCER REPORT**

### **October 26, 2008**

Western Mass. U-13 Jr. Pioneers Goal-tender Bailey Gawron of Hampden, earned the tremendous shutout victory vs. Eastern Mass FC 5-0 on Sunday at Lusitano Stadium.

This is his 2nd shutout in the Mass. Premier League so far this fall season after a impressive 1-0 shutout win over the Fuller Hamlets in the MAPLE opener for both teams.

He earned numerous shutouts in the preseason as the Pioneers went 5-2, before league games started.

Gawron, in his 3rd season with the Pioneers has started every match in goal since his arrival from the Wilbraham Falcons SC in the spring of 2006.

October 26, 2008

## **WMASS ANNIHILATES EMASS 5-0**

**LUDLOW, MA.** - Brian Rossini of Somers, scored 2 goals and Nick Forni of Wibraham, added 1, in between their teammates Jeff Danek and Andre Ferreira, both of Ludlow, who scored 1 goal each as the Western Mass Jr. Pioneers crushed Eastern Mass. FC 5-0 at Lusitano Stadium on Sunday.

Pioneers Head Coach Roger Mendes said on the team preparations for tough Eastern Mass. "Yesterday (Sunday) they (his Pioneers) were organized defensively, they played precise two style play, they attacked in the directions that we worked on in training, they moved without the ball, they passed and crossed well and they overall came out to play."

With now back-to-back convincing home wins at Lusitano Stadium, (over NE Eagles FC 6-1), WMASS fans can only look forward to this Sundays match against local rival, Western United Soccer Club (3-3-1) at the historic Stadium pitch again for the 3rd consecutive Sunday.

A few of the current players for the Pioneers in their 4th fall season with the club have faired very well at the venerable Stadium, going 9-2-2 in 13 matches.

The Pioneers (8-6 overall, 3-4 MAPLE) are currently in 6th place in Division 1 with only 2 regular season matches left.

The top 6 teams automatically remain in the top Division for spring 2009 play. The 7th place finisher will be forced to play a playoff match vs. the 2nd place finisher in Division 2 in mid-November with the winner getting placed in Division 1 for the spring season..

This fall there are currently 38 MAPLE teams in 4 separate U-13 divisions. Each fall and spring season, clubs either remain stagnant in a division, are promoted or relegated to certain divisions (up or down) based on a formula of merit play only, on that particular teams win-lost record and final place in the standings in a division, in that season of play.

October 19, 2008

## **PIONEERS POUND NE EAGLES FC 6-1**

**LUDLOW, MA.** - The U-13 Western Mass. Jr. Pioneers came alive and pounded the New England Eagles FC 6-1 on a sunny crisp afternoon at Lusitano Stadium on Sunday.

Dave Serafino of Springfield, scored 3 goals; Jeff Danek of Ludlow, scored 2 goals and Brian Rossini of Somers, scored 1 as the Pioneers dominated the visitors from the lower Merrimack Valley region of Massachusetts.

With the big win, WMASS ( 7-6 overall, 2-4 MAPLE) are now in 7th place in D1. The top 6 teams in the fall division final standings stay in the first division for the spring 2009 season.

The 7th place finisher in Division 1 hosts a playoff game vs. the 2nd place finisher in Division 2 on November 16th and the winner of that match gets placed in D1 for the spring. The 8th, 9th and 10th place finishers in D1 are relegated to D2 for the spring of 2009.

There are only 3 matches left to play for the Jr. Pioneers.

Next weekend, WMASS hosts 5th place Eastern Mass. FC (3-2 MAPLE), at Lusitano Stadium at 2:30 pm. on Sunday. Then the Pioneers host Western United (2-3-1) on Sun. Nov, 2nd at Ana Dias Field and then WMASS takes on the West Side Bandits (0-6-1) on Sun. Nov. 9th in West Springfield to end the fall regular season soccer schedule.

October 5, 2008

### **PIONEERS LOOK FORWARD TO HOME COOKING**

**BILLERICA, MA.** - The Western Mass. U-13 Pioneers Soccer Club took to their last road trip of the fall season in hopes of beating the last power team in MAPLE that they will face in the regular season, but their hopes were dashed as Benfica USA got 2 goals in the 2nd half to defeat WMASS 2-0.

With 4 home matches remaining vs. 4 other 1st division top foes, however, not considered power clubs, teams that have actually loss a match or 2, so far this season; it is somewhat positive the team can look forward to, because this stretch run the team has been playing has been extremely competitive to say the least. Clearly WMASS schedule has been absolutely brutal. Playing their 4th power club in 5 matches, the Pioneers evenly played Benfica in the 1st half, only to play uninspired soccer for some reason to start the 2nd half, and it seemed to carry on that way for practically the rest of the game.

The good news forecast for the Pioneers (6-6,1-4), is that the next 4 games are all considered winnable and a winning season is still in reach. Stay tuned this week as experts will analyze the Pioneers possibilities of a possible play-in playoff game this fall, and the Pioneers chances of staying in the 1st Division for the spring of 2009. The Pioneers are idle this Sunday. The next match is in 2 weeks vs. New England Eagles SC (2-2-1).

September 28, 2008

### **BLACKWATCH TOPS PIONEERS 3-2**

**LUDLOW, MA.** - When the Western Mass. Pioneers clinched a top division placement last spring for this fall, some fans must of thought of the excellent scheduled competition vs. the best, of the best and as good as you can get in New England soccer for the their club to play against. Those fans are correct in their early thinking as talented Blackwatch soccer club of R.I. defeated WMASS 3-2 at Anna Dias Fields this afternoon.

Blackwatch (3-1), showed they can challenge for the league title vs. the other power teams such as, #1 North Shore (3-0), or #2 Boston Bolts (3-0), whom the Pioneers faced already, or #3 Benfica (3-0), who the Pioneers will face on the road next Sunday. After that match next week, the schedule gets a bit-less demanding in comparison to the first-half of the season with 4 home games vs. the lower-half-tier-clubs of Div. 1.

Blackwatch is a team that plays the same up-tempo short game for 70 minutes as they never let off the gas peddle and attack the ball continually as they play a beautiful strategic game. In the first half Jeff Danek of Ludlow, scored on a pass from Brian Rossini of Somers, via a high ball from Andre Ferreira of Ludlow, as the game was tied 1-1 at half-time. In the 2nd half, BW pressure offense scored 2 goals to lead 3-1. Then late in the 2nd half, with less than 5 minutes left in the game, Diogo Ribeiro of Ludlow, scored on a corner-kick from Ben Murphy of Monson. From there, BW played the clock out, and the sudden energized Pioneer players, could not come up with the equalizer, as time ran out for the home team. The Pioneers record is now (6-5 overall, 1-3 D-1 MAPLE).

September 21, 2008

## **#2 GREATER BOSTON BOLTS TOP JR PIONEERS**

**LUDLOW MA,** - The # 2 ranked soccer club in the Massachusetts Premier League came to Lusitano Stadium and showed fans why they are ranked # 21 nationally and defeated the beloved home team 3-0 on a spectacular early fall day. Local soccer experts and observers suggested that the Greater Boston Bolts were more impressive on Sunday than last weeks match vs. #1 ranked North Shore United.

In any event, the Pioneer fans and players thrive to play the best, and they did just exactly that, in the last 2 matches vs. the # 1 and # 2 ranked power clubs and showed positive flashes in both games, that they can compete at times with the Top 5 clubs in New England, but the team needs to be more aggressive attacking the ball defensively and offensively with anticipating the play before it happens over the course of 70 minutes to truly compete with power clubs day in and day out, in the top upper echelon of Division 1.

With that said, the Pioneers club has shown that can be accomplished, as WMASS showed the talent and grit at certain times the last 2 weekends vs. the best of the best.

Now it is on to the next major soccer program, as the fans continue to welcomed the brutal schedule as they crave the competition. They will get another look at a powerhouse opponent, as it does not get any easier, as the Pioneers now, (6-4 overall,1-2 MAPLE), host Rhode Island's # 5 ranked Blackwatch FC this Sunday, September 28th, at 2:30 PM either at Anna Dias Field or Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow. Last spring, BW defeated the Pioneers early in the season, before WMASS went on a winning run closing out the 2007-08 campaign. In the latest power rankings released on Monday, WMASS is # 6. There are 38 clubs in MAPLE in 4 separate U-13 divisions.

September 14, 2008

## **#1 RANKED NORTH SHORE TOPS PIONEERS 3-1**

**GLOUCESTER, MA.** - It was a tale of 2 halves, with the WMASS Jr. Pioneers dominating the first half and leading 1-0, and then #1 ranked North Shore United doing the exact same dominance to the Pioneers in the 2nd half and score 3 unanswered goals to win 3-1.

With the wind at WMASS backs and a downhill sloped direct kick from the 40 yard line, lefty Danny Matias of Ludlow, blasted a drive in the upper 90 over the sprawling NSU goalie in the 1st half and a possible big-time upset was in the works. But in the 2nd half, with the winds at NSU's backs now, it was their time to dominate and they did just that.

The Pioneers are now 1-2-1 vs. new rival North Shore the last 2 seasons. The Pioneers (6-3 overall, 1-1 MAPLE), next match is this Sunday at Lusitano Stadium vs. #2 ranked Greater Boston Bolts. Last week the Mass. Premier League ranked the Pioneers #7 out of 38 clubs.

September 7, 2008

## **PIONEERS OPEN WITH BIG LEAGUE WIN OVER HAMLETS**

**SUTTON, MA.** - The Western Mass. U-13 Jr. Pioneers opened the Mass. Premier League with a win over the Fuller Hamlets Soccer Club 1-0, on a spectacular Sunday to watch soccer. With topical storm Hanna passing through New England in the morning hours, the field conditions were not in tip-top shape, but the Pioneers played just good enough to pull out a huge opening day league win.

Jeff Danek of Ludlow, scored a goal on a assist from Jordan Martin of Ludlow, in the 1st half, and then the Pioneers' defense handled the rest in the 2nd half, as the Pioneers prevailed. Goalkeeper Bailey Gawron of Hampden, earned the shutout win.

WMASS has won 2 games in a row vs. the Hamlets. The Pioneers now (6-2 overall, 1-0 MAPLE,) travel to #1 ranked North Shore United next Sunday. In 2007-08, the Pioneers were 1-1-1 vs. powerful North Shore in 3 matches.

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## **U-13 Boys Fall 2008**

### **Farmington Valley Soccer Shootout Labor Day**

#### **PIONEERS GO 1-2 IN CONNECTICUT PREMIER TOURNAMENT**

September 1, 2008

**FARMINGTON, CT.** - The Western Mass. Jr. Pioneers went 1-2 in the prestigious Farmington Savings Bank Invitational Shootout this Labor Day Weekend. The Pioneers played 3 top premier clubs from the State of Connecticut.

In the first game, the Pioneers led at halftime 1-0, but Everton SC of Greater Norwalk, CT. scored 3 unanswered goals in the 2nd half to win 3-1.

In game 2, under the glow of lights, the Pioneers manhandled FSA SoccerPlus Reds 4-0, on Saturday evening. On Sunday afternoon, the Pioneers played a inspiring 2nd half, but West Hartford Premier won 2-0. In the Tournament Jeff Danek of Ludlow, scored 4 goals and Jack Stinson of Belchertown, scored 1 goal on an assist from Dave Serafino of Springfield.

Hampden's Bailey Gawron had a shutout in game 2 as the goalkeeper for WMASS.

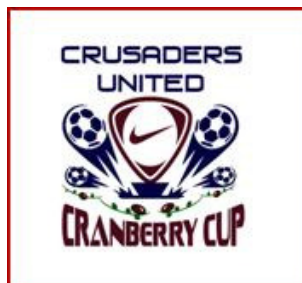
The Pioneers, now (5-2), open up the Mass. Premier League next Sunday, September 7 on the road vs. Division 1 foe, Fuller Hamlets of Southern Worcester County. Last spring, the Pioneers beat the Hamlets in the Mass State Cup Elite 8 at Citizens Bank Soccer Complex.

Pioneers- 1 Everton SC- 3

Pioneers- 4 PSA SoccerPlus Reds- 0

Pioneers- 0 West Hartford Premier- 2

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**Pioneers win Cranberry Cup, 4-0 to start season (U13-B)**  
**CRANBERRY CUP TITLE VICTORY**

August 11, 2008

**CARVER, - MA.** The Jr. Pioneers Soccer Club, coached by Roger Mendes, easily picked up the Cranberry Cup Tournament Championship Title this weekend in Plymouth County, Massachusetts.

In 4 games, the Pioneers completely dominated the Vikings FC of Salem, Mass., the Hanover,( MA.) All Stars, and then 2 convincing wins over host Plymouth Crusaders United to win it all. This is the Pioneers 3rd Tournament Championship Title in 2 years. Last year, the Pioneers, (18-9-4), overall, won the prestigious Delta FC and the Ludlow Columbus Day Championship Tournaments Titles. The Pioneers, now (4-0), to start the 2008-09 season, have applied for the highly competitive Farmington, CT. Tournament (FSA), over Labor Day Weekend. The clubs opening Mass. Premier League match is on Sunday, September 7.