

Karen DuPont

Well, coach Poli, I guess the first thing our readers and East Providence soccer fans would like to know is

-How did you get behind by 2 goals so early in the game?

-A combination of things, replied coach Poli. First Portsmouth was really high when they came out on the field. Secondly, our players were distracted by the play by play announcing of the game. Third, Portsmouth was getting all the bounces. Finally,

but most significant was our knowing that we were playing an inferior team, and as a result, were not fired up at the beginning of the game.

-How did you feel when you were behind 2-0?

\*I was still confident we would win. Portsmouth's two goals were of the fluke variety and if we settled down I was sure they wouldn't score again. I knew we were playing a weak opponent, I knew Portsmouth would fold under pressure as the game went on, and I knew we had the talent to win.

-How did you feel about the 4-2 win?

\*We were very happy to continue our winning streak but it honestly came as no surprise.

\*When asked about the individual talent and team play of Portsmouth, coach Poli replied:

I was impressed with their sweeper back, Goulart. As for the other members of the team they have average to below-average talent for DivIA players. Coach O'Hara talks about Chaplin, Melvin, Vieira, Souza, and Midas, but I found all of them to be unimpressive. The team would probably do better if some of them were on the bench.

I also found that their overall team play lacked consistency. Their biggest problem seemed to be the lack of a good goalkeeper.

-How would you rate yesterday's opponent as a contender in DivIA?

-Portsmouth will be competitive with some teams in the league but in no way can they be compared with a Bristol, a Barrington or an E. Providence. The team does not have the ability nor does the coach have the experience or knowledge of the game to compete with these teams. In my opinion they would have been better off in a lower division unless they are content to settle for 4th, 5th or 6th place in Div IA

Do you consider Portsmouth to be a threat to you when you play them in the second half of the season?

-Not at all. We are playing them at home and it's homecoming weekend for us, so I would expect an easy win.

-Looking down the road to the state playoffs do you see Portsmouth as a contender?

-First, they have to make the playoffs. Poli replied immediately. If they do, I really don't see them as much of a threat.