

By Craig Hoffman
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John Adema was plenty concerned when his Kiel boys soccer team took to the field Tuesday afternoon for its WIAA Division 2 regional opener.

For one thing, his third-seeded Raiders were hosting Berlin, seeded just 14th. Secondly, his squad was coming off a less-than-spectacular win at Two Rivers in their conference finale a week ago. Add to that, his team was playing an unknown in Berlin, a team he knew very little about.

Kiel had their hands full with the Indians but still came away with a 3-1 win to advance to Thursday's regional final versus Winneconne, the six seed. Winneconne had no trouble defeating #11 Waupun, 8-0, in another Tuesday regional semifinal.

Kiel strikes early

Berlin got the first shot on goal, #4 shot from the left corner that Raider goalie Tyler Konz hauled in, but it was Kiel to find the back of the net first.

Bret Maurer stepped in front of a Berlin pass and sent a moderate touch to Brandon Riesterer who was one-on-one with Indian goalie Nick Drover and easily slipped it into the goal for a 1-0 lead at 3:10.

The Raiders had ten corner kick opportunities in the game and converted on two of them. Jason Kuske started the first one at 21:47 in which Riesterer, unmarked by the Berlin defense, headed the ball into the goal for a two-goal advantage.

The other successful corner kick came as the Raiders were clinging to a 2-1 lead. Just under nine minutes into the second half, Kuske started the corner kick centering it to Maurer who soft touched it to Riesterer charging in from the opposite side. Riesterer then finished it off for the insurance goal and the 3-1 lead.

Relieved Raiders

Adema was quick to praise the Raider opponent.

"We totally underestimated them," he said.

"I knew absolutely nothing about them. We played well enough to win."

Berlin, 5-16-2 overall, got their goal at the 29:51 point of the first half when Greg Stellmacher scored from about 15 yards out. Tyler Konz had three saves for Kiel, now 16-7-0 overall. Drover had ten stops for the Indians.

"They really pressured us," added Adema.

"I was really impressed with how Berlin played."