

## Chill topple leaders

By Emmanuel Moutsatsos

Saturday, June 21, 2008



Done talking to his players after a half they dominated, Tony Colistro sparks a light and shrugs his shoulders like an Italian would.

"Can you believe that?" the head coach says during the halftime break while raising his hands closely to his chest.

Which part? It's 0-0 but the Thunder Bay Chill could easily be up 2-0, 3-0 or even 4-0, but they're not. Casey Gold and his older brother Jeremy should've scored, but didn't. Ditto goes for Brandon Swartzendruber and Alvaro Zendejas, and who knows how Gustavo Oliveira didn't score after a spectacular toe-tapping run in the box which brought over 600 fans at Chapples Park to their feet on Friday night.

"We had lots of chances," Jeremy Gold shrugs.

No kidding.

The Chill authored 11 shots in the opening half on this humid evening while their counterparts, the St. Louis Lions, have mustered just one, but like we said, it's still 0-0. Correction, make that 1-0 for Thunder Bay thanks to Gold. Correction, make that 2-0 thanks to Zendejas. Correction, make that 3-0 as Gold's collecting from the well again, and that's the way things would end.

"He's a quiet leader," Colistro says of Gold. "He's so smart out there and he reads the game so well."

The way Gold read the first half was this way: We had lots of great scoring chances and didn't score, but if we stick to what we're doing "it's just a matter of time." He was also thinking something else: "I was thinking, I've got to start scoring," he says.

His first got started thanks to his brother who forced a turnover in the midfield. That's where Anthony Putrus, who's now sporting a thin mohawk to match his Tasmanian style, collected the ball. He made some moves, created some space and then dished the plastic orb to his left side for a streaking Gold. He, a wise player with talented feet to match, bent it like Beckham from 30 feet out with his left foot, placing it top shelf and by a sprawling Lions keeper at the 55-minute mark.

"It was a beautiful goal the way he was able to bend it in," describes Colistro.

Dubbed the Heartland Division's top team since they had an undefeated record heading in, the Lions, who finished the game with less than five shots, fell apart after that and looked how Greece did in defending their Euro Cup title: Ghastly.

"Once we get that first one it opens up the team," Colistro explains.

The Chill would score just five minutes later when Zendejas got one of his flashy red boots on a rebound to give him his second of the summer, and then Gold pocketed his fourth 20 minutes later giving the home team a 3-1-1 record and the authors of a three-game winning streak.

"What we keep telling ourselves is every game we are going to get stronger and it's going to be very difficult for teams to beat us," Colistro says.

Thunder Bay plays St. Louis once again today at 7:30 p.m.