

## Kicking things off right

• Rome continues a hot start to the season with a 6-0 win over Coosa.

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### **ROME BOYS 6, COOSA 0**

It may still be cold out, but soccer season is already making its presence known at the prep level. And when Rome and Coosa dueled Tuesday night, both teams showed the progress they hope to create for months to come.

The Rome Wolves came out as the clear winners, netting three goals in each half for an easy 6-0 victory at Barron Stadium on Tuesday. It was the perfect outing for Rome coach Chris Cochran, who is still hoping for the team to get better every day.

"To get into a routine and to begin to show what we want to do all year long is important," Cochran said. "I got to play all of my kids which is obviously big for me. It is early in the year, we may make mistakes, but I liked tonight."

Rome sophomore Rhadriq Turner scored the first two goals for the Wolves, including a goal in the first minute of the game. Senior and captain Angel Morrente recorded two assists, and Eduardo Zavala recorded one goal and one assist.

After the first two Turner goals, junior Sergio Vazquez found the net near the halfway point of the first half. Morrente notched his second assist with a lovely pass to Wes Lorrens for the fourth goal, and Zavala and Alex Cornejo scored the final two goals.

Coosa failed to score, getting only two shots on goal with Rome's front line controlling the ball for most of the match.

But Coosa coach Ruben Maldonado did not seem fazed by the result, knowing that playing a 5A school like Rome is always difficult.

He was proud of the way his team fought all game long, despite falling behind very early.

"Rome has some guys who play year round, so it is always going to be tough as an AA school to compete with that," Maldonado said.

"But overall, we were satisfied with what the kids did for us and I think we'll be one of the stronger teams in Region 7-AA."

Cochran made it clear that he doesn't just want the veterans and starters to continue to grow, but every player on the team.

That fear of injuries did arise during the game, which had its share of choppy moments.

But while Cochran does not want his team being too physical, he encourages them to play with a purpose.

"It gets choppy, these kids are from the same city and they know each other," Cochran said. "We don't want anyone hurt, but we also want our kids to be assertive."

Coosa plays again on Thursday when the team stays on the road to take on Ridgeland.

Rome continues its homestand with a game against Northwest on Friday evening.



Tommy Romanach/Rome News-Tribune

Rome's Tevin Perry battles for the ball with Coosa's Orlando Lopez during the Wolves' 6-0 win against the Eagles on Tuesday.



Tommy Romanach/RN-T

Rome senior Angel Morrente crosses the ball in front of Coosa's Orlando Lopez.

