Althoff saves Cougars again

Written by Tom Fruehling Saturday, 20 April 2013 19:39 -

A dead cinch to be ranked the state's best in the next poll on Tuesday, the Kennedy boys soccer team dodged a scare Saturday afternoon against 12th-ranked Linn-Mar.

On a rare sunny day at Kingston Stadium, the two traditional rivals played cat-and-mouse for 80 minutes of regulation and two overtimes before the Cougars finally broke the scoreless tie with an 8-7 shootout victory.

"We were very lucky we didn't lose in the second overtime," said Kennedy co-coach Steve Robertson. "One inch to the left and the ball would have gone in."

As it was, with 5:37 to go in the second extra period, a Lion shot hit inside the left goal post but bounced outside the net.

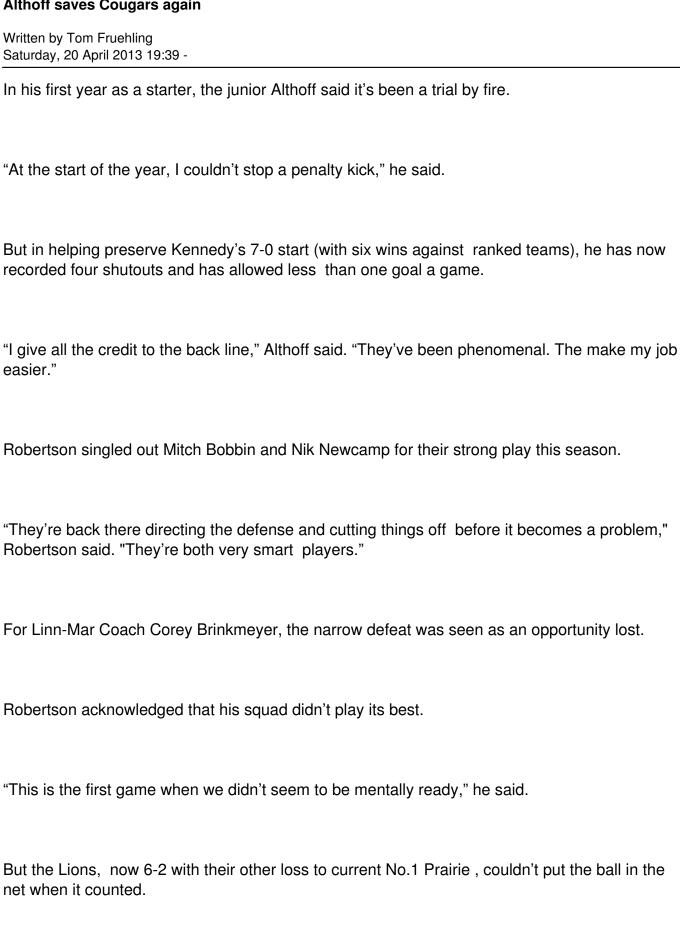
In the marathon shootout session, each team missed one try as they went back and forth to a 7-7 deadlock.

Kennedy was wide right on its next attempt, but goal keeper Nathan Althoff made a clutch stop to keep the Cougars alive.

He then smothered another after Nick Waterhouse put Kennedy up by one with a rocket to the right corner of the goal.

"Nate's been doing that all year," said Robertson. "He's been great in tight games getting saves exactly when we need them."

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"We had our chances," Brinkmeyer said, "but we just didn't take advantage of our opportunities.

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