

## **Musketeers defeat Big Green in key PCL matchup**

Written by Bob Weber

Wednesday, October 09, 2013 12:18 AM -

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**By BOB WEBER**

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OTTOVILLE — On a beautiful fall Tuesday night, the Fort Jennings Musketeers traveled a few miles down St. Rt. 189 to take on the Big Green of Ottoville in their annual Putnam County League boys soccer matchup.

The Musketeers took advantage of two early penalty kicks and pulled away in the second half to come away with a convincing 4-0 win over the Big Green.

The first half looked very promising for the Big Green when at the 39:19 mark, junior Joel Beining found himself wide open on the left side of the goal but was unable to control the ball enough as his shot sailed high.

The Big Green, behind the excellent throw-ins of senior Alex Horstman, had many chances throughout the half to score; however, shots sailed often wide or high or just simply could not find their mark.



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The Musketeers, on the other hand, were beneficiaries of two Big Green penalties in the box that gave the Musketeers two attempts in the first half. Senior Seth Ricker took both penalty kicks and did not disappoint the Musketeers and head coach Gregg Luthman as they both eluded the Big Green goalie. Ricker scored the Musketeers' first goal at the 34:01 mark and his second came at the 23:24 mark to give his team the early 2-0 lead over the Big Green.

That lead stood for the remainder of the first half as the Big Green was unable to take advantage of numerous scoring opportunities they had during the first 40 minutes of play.

The second half again found the Big Green having early chances to cut into the Musketeers' lead; however, once again, shots continued to sail wide and high.

The home squad struggled all night to get into any offensive rhythm as the Musketeers were able to squash any real threats on goal and senior goalkeeper Alex Vetter played well in goal throughout the evening.

Sophomore Musketeer Drew Grone was in the right place at the right time as he found himself open on the right side at the 33:19 mark and after a deflection of a teammate shot, the ball bounced his way and he delivered it into the back of the net for a 3-0 lead.

The visitors rounded out their scoring on the evening at the 11:00 mark as senior Spencer Dray found the back of the net, making the score 4-0, Musketeers.

The Musketeers out shot the Big Green 7-5 on the evening.

Ft. Jennings (6-6, 2-2 PCL) will finish its regular season as they host Cory-Rawson Thursday night at 5:00.



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Ottoville (9-2-1, 1-2 PCL) will take on New Knoxville Friday night starting at 5:00.

**Goals** - Ft. Jennings - Seth Ricker (2), Drew Grone, Spencer Dray

**Saves** - Ft Jennings - Alex Vetter (5), Colin Bendele (3)