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T-Birds oust Bearcats in boys tourney

LIMA — With only 13 players on its roster — eight of them freshmen — Spencerville's boys soccer team (co-ed) knew it was going to have a rough year in 2012.

Lima Central Catholic was going to end it Monday evening under the lights of Lima Stadium, whipping the Bearcats (0-15-0) 8-2 in the Division III Lima District first round.

The Thunderbirds (10-5-2) scored all eight of its goals in the first half.

The first came just 23 ticks into it as Sean Daley put in an 8-yarder past Bearcat sophomore keeper Byron Gay (9 saves vs. 18 shots on-goal in the first half).

It was another 4:24 before Jacob Williams headed one in off a corner kick for a 2-0 lead.

The T-Birds netted six more in the final 35 minutes of the first half: by Jose Dominguez (28:42); at 27:34 by Daley; 22:32 by Chris Walter; Joe Cunningham at 21:23; Ben Stechschulte — who was the starting goalkeeper but replaced 8-plus minutes into the half by Kyle Smith — at 14:20; and finally at 11:20 by Daniel Gustaesson.

Spencerville got its first goal at 4:00 when lone senior Austin Oehlhof 1-touched a 15-yarder by Smith (6 saves vs. 11 shots on-goal).

LCC did not attempt a shot in the second half and the Bearcats ended the scoring at 1:52 when Oehlhof put in his final score of his high school soccer career.

LCC will play top-seed Liberty-Benton at 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

(Longer article in Wednesday's paper).