

# Futsal soccer

*Editor's note: the following write-ups are from the Albany Berkeley Soccer Club (ABSC) futsal games at the James Kenney Recreation Center that took place on Sunday, February 19. To encourage youth participation, Berkeley Times is pleased to publish game write-ups, but we need your help to cover every game. For instructions on how to submit game write ups, see the ad below.*

## Spiders (U10) vs. Pirates (U10)

In a fast-paced futsal match-up between the Spiders and the Pirates last

Sunday at James Kenney Recreation Center in Berkeley, players rushed the court with energy, enthusiasm, and a dogged determination for the ball. James Knowles kicked off a Spiders' scoring streak with a shot to the goal assisted by offensive powerhouse Michael Wright. The Pirates held their ground with a string of heroic stops at the goal. The Spiders' Gabriel Stevens pushed his team to new ground with a barrage of goals, including in a high-flying shot over the goalie's head. Devin Fike — who sticks to the ball like a magnet to metal — scored a sweet shot from the left corner to end the first half. The Spiders' goalie Jonah Bloom made more than one diving save in his typical show of defensive

force. At the start of the second half, the spirited Pirates made a run launched by an exciting breakaway goal and continued to pressure the Spiders defensively.

Although the Spiders lacked speedster scoring machine Jackson Rockmael and smooth ball handler Raja Grossi, the team enjoyed their fun futsal bout with the Pirates.

## Lorin Lightning (U8) vs. Soccer Monkeys (U10)

The Lorin Lightning was challenged this past Sunday taking on the Soccer Monkeys, who play in an older age division. Even so, the Lightning demonstrated their readiness with two early scores resulting from separate attacks by Arwen Bristol and Arcata Griffin. Also, Penelope Dooley was a steady part of the Lightning offense, she scored three times on the day. Isabel Rubin-Saika contributed by scoring her first goal since joining the team. There were outstanding moments on defense too. As goalkeeper during the first period, Sophie Goldstein deflected many shots by the Monkeys. In the second half, it was Schuyler Simon-Thomas in the net who demonstrated terrific poise preventing the Monkeys from scoring at point-blank range.

For the Monkeys, Fabienne, Anuka and Arasani demonstrated great patience as they moved the

## NCS first round Yellowjackets stunned by College Park

In the first round of the NCS-Division I playoffs last Wednesday night, the Yellowjackets were bested by College Park, 2-0.

Berkeley had a few chances early, but the College Park goalie was extremely aggressive and skillful at catching shots in mid-air, denying all attempts by the Yellowjackets. After the contest, there were many tears on sidelines.

"We were ready, but this one did not go our way," said senior midfielder Alice Contopoulos before adding. "This is the best team that I've ever been a part of, and I'm going to miss these girls."



ball just ahead of the persistent and aggressive tackling of the younger Lightning. Scoring opportunities were few, but the Monkeys generated goals with their quickness and ability to find the net from farther out. While Anuka led on defense, Fabienne and Arasani attacked the net on offense from the left and right sides respectively.

## Barzitas (U7) vs. Golden Super Sharks (U7)

The U7 Barzitas demonstrated great spirit and determination in Sunday's Futsal matchup against the Golden Super Sharks. The Golden Sharks came out attacking,

but were met with strong defensive efforts by Kai and Charlie. First half goal keepers Mason and Kieran shielded the nets with numerous difficult saves. Then suddenly, Darragh took advantage of a quick transition to score decisively. It was Barzita's only first half goal. The skilled Sharks kept up their offensive efforts in the second half but were denied repeatedly by tenacious defensive efforts led by Enzo and a heroic save by Cyrus.

## Lorin Lightning (U8) vs. Sparks (U8)

The Sparks faced the Lorin Lightning last Sunday afternoon in Berkeley. The Sparks were

missing several key players this week because of school holidays; in true ABSC spirit, the Lightning graciously 'loaned' the Sparks a few players for each half of the game. The Sparks prevailed, led by Bella Gettman, whose tenacious defense broke up several scoring threats, and Tamsin Urbas who scored four goals to pace the offense.

