



Staff photos by Katina Zentz

ABOVE: Brunswick's Tatum Smith runs for the ball as Clear Spring goalkeeper Alyssalynn Barr turns by the goal at Brunswick High School on Tuesday. **BELOW:** Brunswick's Skyla Stokes, right, and Clear Spring's Addisyn Litten run after the ball.

GIRLS SOCCER

SHOWING PROMISE

Three Railroaders sophomores score in dominant win over Blazers



**Brunswick 6,
Clear Spring 0**

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Coach Dara Demich occasionally has to remind herself that her players are still so young, and she can't quite nitpick to the level that she otherwise might.

There are only six seniors on Demich's Brunswick High girls soccer team and only two who started games last season in midfielder Laila Jackson and defender Jasmine Partyka.

Some of the rest of the team contributed last season off the bench. But most of the roster is brand new to varsity soccer.

So the run of play so far for the Railroaders has been a bit inconsistent, as Demich pret-

ty much expected.

There are nights when everything feels a little off and players are not quite where they are supposed to be and doing what they need to be doing.

And there are nights when everything falls into place nicely, and their talent really shines through.

Tuesday night's 6-0 home win over Clear Spring encapsulated that inconsistency pretty well.

Though their shots were off the mark for much of the

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Showing promise

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night, the Railroaders still produced enough good ones for a rather dominant victory, improving their record to an impressive 8-2-1 in the process.

If it weren't for the stellar play and point-blank saves from Clear Spring goalie Alyssalynn Barr in the first half, the score would have been even more out of hand.

"Sometimes, I tell them, 'Hey, I am going to nitpick you and hold the expectation high,'" Demich said. "I know we are still learning. But, we're at the point of the season now where we need to be a little more consistent."

Particularly if Brunswick wants advance through the regional playoffs later this month.

The Railroaders recently faced one of their biggest obstacles to a regional title, South Carroll, and dropped a 2-0 decision in a fairly competitive game.

"It's something to adjust to," said Jackson, who played a more prominent offensive role over the last two seasons before pulling back this year to help more with the defensive effort. "Last year, it felt easier and more in sync. This year, you just have to let everyone sync up and work together."

Gradually, it is happening.

Three of Brunswick's goals were scored by sophomores, as Morgan Bilbrey, Kate Hargett and Maddy Isaacura Yepez found the back of the net.

The other Brunswick goals were scored by some of the more experienced players, as Jackson, senior Leah Smallwood and junior Skyla Stokes made their shots count.

"I am hoping we can grow with each [game]," Demich said. "If we can work on some things offensively, I always think there's potential. I always think we can make a run."