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### Catonsville boys soccer nips Towson, 2-1, on OT goal by Finley Tracht

Sophomore's first career goal is a game-winner



Towson goalkeeper Will Hardy punches away a shot on goal in Towson's 2-1 overtime loss to Catonsville that ended the Generals unbeaten season (Haldan Kirsch/Freelance)

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Catonsville sophomore Finley Tracht picked the perfect time to score his first varsity goal as he netted the game-winner in overtime Wednesday to give the host Comets a 2-1 victory over Towson.

Tracht, the team's lone sophomore, drilled a left-footed shot past keeper Will Hardy in the first minute of the second 10-minute overtime after a throw-in by Noah Rice.

"I just took a touch and hit it and just hoped it would go in," Tracht said. "I think I hit it a little bit early and it was on the ground, so I wasn't really expecting it to go in."

It took a goal by Catonsville's Dom Brown from 20 yards out with just over two minutes left in regulation to send the game to overtime. Brown won the ball from two defenders and got the shot off.

That capped a second half in which the Comets (5-2) dominated time of possession and kept constant pressure on the defense with long balls and deep runs.

"They were great at playing over the top and they had three speedy guys and it wore us down," Towson defender Will Heacock said.

The Comets nearly tied the game with under 13 minutes left in regulation when Anthony Argueta drilled a shot past goalie Will Hardy headed for the back of the net, but Towson defender Justin Villano suddenly appeared and saved it with his leg.

"That was a great play by Justin," Towson (5-1) coach Randy Dase said.

"He came out of nowhere," Catonsville coach Brendan Kennedy said. "That was a big stop. Those guys just go, man. They are all a bunch of machines."

Towson's winning formula has frequently been scoring off set pieces and relying on a stingy defense to do the rest.

That seemed to be in motion when the Generals scored less than 10 minutes into the game on a header by Heacock after a corner kick by Takaya Newton.



2 of 10  
Catonsville's Dane Simonson and Aydenn Aguilar pull on each other's jerseys during the game between Catonsville and Towson High Schools at Catonsville High School in Catonsville, MD. (Haldan Kirsch/Freelance)

"We have plays," Heacock said. "We are probably the only team in the state of Maryland that has plays on set pieces and we had a play that specifically goes to one person and we changed it up on that one and it happened to be me and Takaya just played me a great ball right on my head and I just laid it in."

It was one of five shot attempts for the Generals, and two others were near misses. Brody Murphy had a shot after a perfect cross from Newton that was saved by diving goalie Stanley Simonsen.

Newton also narrowly missed a shot just wide late in the half.

"We should have been up 3-0 at half. We had two very great opportunities and then we played 40 minutes of defense the second half," Dase said.

Kennedy credits halftime adjustments after his team "came out a bit flat."

"They might have been in our heads a little bit and we didn't really play up to our standard or up to our game, and halftime everybody was on the same page," he said.

Towson's defense of Eli Holt, Gavin Erdman, Villano and Heacock continued to make big plays despite being under constant pressure. But Catonsville's defense, led by Matt Carlson, Muhammad Kholti Yamani, Toby Tracht and Anthony Argueta, made plays and distributed dangerous long balls.

"They controlled midfield in the first half of the game and it gave them two good chances that they fortunately didn't capitalize on. But you don't want to give up control and you don't want to give up the ball in that part of the field," Kennedy said. "So if we knew we were going to have a shot, we were going to have to win the ball between the 40s."

Towson only took one shot in the second half, but it did get the first good chance four minutes into overtime as Guillermo Hernandez-Gomez's shot in the box was stopped by Simonsen.

"They played well, but our energy wasn't up to par tonight," Dase said.

After road games at Harford Tech, Eastern Tech and Century, the Generals will host Dulaney at their temporary field at Meadowood Regional Park at 3:45 on Oct. 8 in the 2025 Cancer Awareness Game. Proceeds support prostate cancer research.

"We are going to pass the little buckets around," said Dase, a prostate cancer survivor. "We've already raised \$400 in the first five hours of having the link out, so that's good."

Here's the link to donate or dedicate a gift to the cause. You can also donate in honor or memory of someone who's been impacted by prostate cancer. <https://secure.jhu.edu/form/CoachDase>

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