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# The Huntsville Times

## U.S. team starts slowly, finishes strong

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For The Times

Young Americans outshoot rivals 13-2, make final

The future of women's soccer in the United States remains bright.

The U.S. Under-21 women's team defeated a veteran full international side from Trinidad and Tobago 2-0 Tuesday night at Louis Crews Stadium.

A small but lively crowd filled about half of the home grandstand to watch the Americans overcome a slow start and score twice in six second-half minutes to get the win.

The U.S. team improved to 2-0 in the Futbol Internacional tournament and assured it of a spot in the final Saturday in Mobile.

The young United States lineup outshot its rivals 13-2 and had 10 corners to 2 for Trinidad and Tobago.

The Trinidadians used tough tackling and resolute defense to match the U.S. women for most of the first half. The American women controlled possession but could not find the breakthrough until Angie Woznuk's opener in the 70th minute.

"We knew they would match up for the first 15 to 20 minutes," U.S. coach Bill Irwin said. "We had to match their work rate and effort, which we didn't do in the first half."

The Americans came out strong in the second half, winning two corners in the first two minutes. Forward Sarah Huffman then came close with two efforts in the 50th and 51st minutes.

"In the first half, we didn't perform anywhere near where we're capable," Irwin said. "We got it sorted out at halftime. We controlled the game in the second half."

The U.S. women finally found their scoring touch in the 70th minute when Woznuk, a midfielder, drove a free kick over the Trinidadian wall, off the keeper's hands, and into the back of the net.

Six minutes later Woznuk picked up the ball in the center circle and found Kelsey Carpenter with a pass through the Trinidad and Tobago defense. Carpenter made no mistake with her shot.

Players from both sides remained after the final whistle to sign autographs for several youth soccer teams that attended.

"It's a very talented group of players," said Irwin, who singled out Stanford's Rachel Buehler for praise.

"She was a different class tonight," he said.

Joanna Haig made two saves to get the shutout in the American goal.

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