

Sports

DRAW ■ from page 7

the Pioneers lose a match. Each soccer team earns three points for a victory and one point for a draw.

Just like in their first meeting of the regular season meeting a month earlier, neither Black Rock FC nor the Pioneers scored a goal during the first 45 minutes of last Friday's contest.

Geronnimo Gomes had two of the shot attempts for the home side during the opening half.

At the beginning of the contest, Jackson Gould lined a shot from outside the top of the box that sailed wide of the net.

The Pioneers, who had four corner kicks in the first half, best scoring chance came during the 36th minute. That's when a shot taken by Vasco Teixeira clanged off the post keeping the match scoreless a little bit longer.

Down at the other end of the field, Western Mass. goalie Ben Alexander didn't have to make any saves during the first half.

The Pioneers finally ended the scoreless drought with a free kick goal in the 65th minute.

The duo of Ronan O'Brien and Shun Murasawa, who stepped onto the pitch together during the 60th minute, produced the Pioneers goal.

O'Brien sent the ball into the box from the right side where Murasawa headed into the right corner for his first goal of the season.

"I just focused on the ball, and I managed to score my first goal as a member of this team," Murasawa said. It was a great feeling, but we lost our focus on the last play.

Murasawa was born in Kawasaki, Japan before moving to Franklin, Tennessee with his family as a sophomore in high school. He'll be a sophomore member of the UMass Amherst men's soccer team in the fall. He was recruited by UMass volunteer assistant coach Takehiko Nakamura.

Murasawa's roommate at UMass as a freshman was



Left: Owen Allen turns and goes after a loose ball
Above: John Carra slips a quick pass away
TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Above: Benjamin Gretchka socks a free kick away.
Right: Nicholas Ghareeb plays the ball off his chest.



The Pioneers supporters are hoping to celebrate a victory in the regular season finale on Friday night against the undefeated Vermont Green FC.

Thomas Wadas, who's also a member of the UMass soccer team. Wadas also plays for the Pioneers and was an outstanding soccer player at Ludlow High School.

"Thomas was my college roommate and teammate

last year," Murasawa said. "He told me about the Pioneers, and I wound up playing here. It's been a lot of fun and it's a great atmosphere here."

The score remained 1-0 until stoppage time.

With ten Black Rock players standing inside the box on a corner kick, Juan O'Neill booted the ball from the right corner and goalie Christian Herluf Braae-Anderson put a shot into the net, which spoiled the Pioneers night.

Public Notices

Town of Agawam Legal Notice
The **Agawam Planning Board** will hold a public hearing on Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 6:00pm and the **Agawam City Council** will hold its public hearing on Monday, August 3, 2026 at 7:00pm at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of these hearings will be to hear the petition of Mayor Johnson & Council President Russo for a proposed zoning amendment for "An Ordinance Enacting a Temporary Moratorium on Data Centers in the Town of Agawam." The City Council's public hearing will be livestreamed on the Town of Agawam's website at www.agawam.ma.us and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15 or Channel 1074. Copies of the proposed zoning amendment can be obtained from the Planning Department between the hours of 7:30am and 3:30pm at the Agawam DPW, 1000 Suff-

ield Street, Agawam, MA or by emailing the Office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at vgioscia@agawam.ma.us.

By Order Of:
Violet Baldwin, Chairman
Agawam Planning Board
Anthony Russo
City Council President
07/02, 07/09/2026

Sale of Motor Vehicle
Notice is hereby given by Langonet Towing pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A, that on **July 24, 2026** at 63 Ramah Cir S, Agawam the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.
2005 Buick Lesabre
VIN: 1G4HP52K25U276668
Alfred Dimauro
4 Colony Drive
Hampden, MA 01036
07/09, 07/16, 07/23/2026

Valley Blue Sox fall to Mystic Schooners

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox fell 11-2 to the Mystic Schooners on July 3 at Mackenzie Stadium. Mystic got in front early with four runs in each the second and third innings, never looking back en route to a dominant victory.

The loss is the Blue Sox's sixth in seventh games and the seventh time they have allowed 10 or more runs in the 2026 season. The Schooners flipped the script on a Blue Sox team that beat them 11-3, largely driven by nine early runs June 12.

LHP Andrew Speranza (Marist) took the ball in his first Blue Sox start and lasted three innings, allowing eight earned runs in his debut on six hits. Blue Sox's Head coach John Raiola said Speranza was put in a tough

start for his first appearance.

"Not to make excuses, but in reality he drove two hours to get here in 104 degrees and didn't know anybody, and here you go," Raiola said. "... Obviously it didn't go the way that he wanted, and kind of snowballed on us from there."

Speranza was the third new Blue Sox's player to join the team in the past week and make a start in his first appearance. However his start went south quickly and was essentially ended by a three-run home run into the Blue Sox bullpen. It was only the second home run hit at Mackenzie Stadium this season.

The Valley bullpen did well cleaning up the mess, pitching the remaining six

innings without allowing an earned run. LHP Mike Madigan (George Mason), RHP Lukas Jachens (SUNY Oneonta) and RHP Jason Pinonnault (Western New England) combined for a line of zero earned runs, five hits, one walk and three strikeouts.

For Pinonnault, who has been a frequent late innings pitcher for Valley, it was business as usual. Pinonnault has not allowed an earned run since June 14, a span where he has thrown eight innings.

"Just been mixing well," Pinonnault said. "Everything's felt good. I've been able to command everything. Being able to command and mix with all three has been the biggest thing for me."

While the bullpen did not have any earned runs, Mystic did score three times after Speranza exited, largely due to some shaky defense from a Valley team that made five errors, a season high.

The Blue Sox are in their roughest stretch of play this season. They have lost six of their last seven games and dropped to fifth in the South Division.

Despite the tough run of games, Raiola is still optimistic that his team can grind their way out of a rut.

"One thing we just talked about is June is over," Raiola said. "Be the best July hitter, be the best July pitcher that we have. Everyone should be striving for that."

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