

August 17, 2011

LCA 1 - North Oldham County HS 2 (PKs)

Season Record: 0-1-0

The LCA Lady Eagles opened their 2011 regular season on the road against North Oldham HS in their first game of the SON Cup tournament. The young Lady Eagles who return just three starters from last year's squad battled the Lady Mustangs to a 1-1 tie in regulation but ultimately lost the coin toss known in soccer as penalty kicks.

As in their pre-season contests, the Lady Eagles controlled the ball early and tallied the first goal of the game when Caroline Hargis won a ball near midfield and found Caroline Boone checking back to her in the middle of the field. Young Miss Boone turned left and found Hannah Treadway with space on the right side. The senior wing took the pass in stride and floated a ball over the Lady Mustang's keeper who had strayed from her line giving the Lady Eagles the early lead. The Lady Eagles kept numbers back throughout the game and did so very effectively in the first half holding the Lady Mustangs without a shot on goal for the first forty minutes. Despite the defensive posture, the Lady Eagles found offensive success when they possessed the ball and worked their way forward as a unit. These efforts resulted in first half shots from Caley Hall, Rachel Bertrand, and Kennedy Caneer (2) but the Lady Eagles were unable to capitalize and the half ended 1-0.

In the second, the Lady Mustangs turned up the offensive pressure and found a little more success with their English "three lions" style of soccer. This included the usual dose of physical play and several direct long balls over the top forcing the Lady Eagles to put their defensive speed on full display. Seniors Madi Mitchell and Julie Sunday held down the right side and upstart Maddie Sjogren and Brianna Arnold worked the left with all outpacing their opponents as needed and getting back to defend the long balls.

Midway through the second half, basketball star and new goalkeeper Katelin Bundy was officially introduced to the varsity game when she made her first career save and Hope Solo impersonation. The Lady Mustangs earned a free kick just outside of the LCA eighteen and Katie Stinebruner sent a rocket low and just past the wall that was destined for the back of the net had Bundy not gotten an outstretched hand on the ball. The ensuing corner kick proved fruitless and the Lady Eagles maintained their 1-0 lead. Within minutes and near the fifty-first minute, the Lady Mustangs found the back of the net on just their second and last shot of the game when Emily McLellan bulled her way into the box and through the LCA defense.

LCA struggled to keep pace as the second half went on but found some spry legs in Maddie Sjogren when Alex Stanback checked into the center back position with about twelve minutes remaining. This allowed Sjogren to get up field and create some havoc. Although she was successful in making several runs, the Lady Eagles were unable to convert the lone shot of the half and held on for a 1-1 tie at the end of regulation.

SON Cup tournament rules sent the game immediately to penalties where the Lady Mustangs exercised tremendous poise and precision netting all three of their shots. Elise McKinney set the stage at the outset for the Lady Eagles driving her shot low into the right netting but the Lady Eagles sandwiched Treadway's hard to determine make a pair of misses. A tough ending for a new, young and eager group of young Lady Eagles who have worked very hard throughout the summer and pre-season.