

September 17, 2011

Louisville Collegiate 0 - LCA 8

Season Record: 5-5-1

District Record: 1-1-0

The All "A" State tournament at Sower Fields feels like an annual rite of passage for the LCA Lady Eagles anymore. At least for the three years that I have enjoyed following the team and in actuality, it is the fifth year in a row that LCA has earned a birth in the final weekend and actually fought its way to the final game. Up first for the LCA Lady Eagles was the Region 7/8 winner Louisville Collegiate who earned their trip to the State tournament by defeating Whitefield Academy 5-1 and Kentucky Country Day in a shootout 4-3. The Lady Amazons might have thought they caught a break when they drew an LCA squad that graduated nine seniors the prior year, but the four time finalist and defending champions assured the Amazons early and often that there are no more rebuilding years at LCA. The Lady Eagles dominated the game in every facet netting eight goals (40 shots - 20 on goal) by eight different players and giving up zero shots - on goal or otherwise. The dominating performance was capped off by a certain center back who became 'angry' when the ball entered the box late in the second half - I like the attitude.

Junior Brooke Dobbs got the start and made Coach Einstein look pretty good by battling for the rebound of a shot on goal by Hannah Treadway that was bungled by LC's keeper. The ever present Dobbs jumped on the rebound, whirled and fired a shot into the top of the net for a 1-0 lead. After near misses by Maddie Sjogren Rachel Bertrand, and Madi Mitchell, Caroline Hargis joined her friend in the scoring column a few minutes later on a 45 yard free kick that glanced off the keeper's fingertips and into the goal. The official scorekeeper gave the keeper an error (E-11) on the play but the goal counted nonetheless and Hargis received special thanks from her keeper, Miss Bundy. With that, the Lady Eagles were well on their way with a 2-0 lead. Not to be outdone by her fellow Juniors, the ever hustling Brianna Arnold followed a shot by Caroline Boone and placed it behind the LC keeper for a 3-0 lead. The Junior onslaught continued as Rachel Bertrand weaved through the LC defense and rocketed a tough angle shot near post and past the LC keeper for a 4-0 lead.

Perhaps tired of watching the Juniors etch their names in the Herald Leader fine print or miffed at being run into by LC keepers, Freshman Maddie Sjogren corralled a ball laid out by Bertrand, took two touches and ever so gently slotted the ball into the left corner giving LCA a 5-0 lead at the break. Although the Lady Eagles played everyone in the second half, there appeared to be no let down in skill, domination, or effort and nine minutes into the second half, Madi Mitchell pushed up field from her right back position and listened to her center back and Senior friend who implored her to shoot the ball. Madi struck a beautiful ball from distance that found the back of the net just under the bar. The only thing better than the shot and goal was the celebration that found Madi gleefully attacked by Miss Sjogren to the delight of everyone on the field and in the stands. Following a significant injury delay which saw the LC backup goalie taken away in an ambulance (she is fine and had only a hard bump and a bloody nose), LCA picked up where they had left off and Caroline Boone added a goal to go with her earlier assist. Kennedy Caneer, as has become expected, lofted a beautiful crossing ball into the box and Miss Boone one timed the ball out of the air and straight into the net putting the Lady Eagles up 7-0.

Throughout most of the second half, the Lady Eagles dominance was continued with the help of Alex Stanback, Emily Fairchild, and Emily Deller in the defensive end and Haley Casper, Annie Stewart, and Julia Barnhart up top. A great effort by all which resulted in Katelin Bundy finding her way out of the net and onto the field with Malia Bizer tending 'the old onion bag.' It didn't take Katelin long to introduce herself as a dominating athlete, and after a couple of near misses, she put the icing on the cake with a nice left footed shot on a ball played by Julia Barnhart that sealed the deal. With that, the Sophomore class was on the board and the game ended 8-0 with a member of each class tallying a goal and eight different players. It's safe to say that a good time was had by all.