

September 26, 2011

LCA 2 - Lafayette HS 1

Season Record: 8-7-1  
District Record: 3-2-0

The LCA Lady Eagles continued district play in the ever difficult 27<sup>th</sup> District by travelling across town to the home of the perennially lower echelon Lafayette Lady Generals. A game that was once considered a breath of fresh air in a district stacked with final four caliber teams is no longer a gimme. The Lady Generals, playing on a brand new 1.25 mile x 1.00 mile turf field, greeted the Lady Eagles with a newly developed swagger and physicality not usually seen around those parts at a woman's soccer game. The defense was big and physical and the team was in top shape as both squads seemed to chase the quickly rolling ball on the turf all night.

The game began at a blistering pace with Lafayette being more familiar with the speed of the home turf. Both squads possessed the ball and moved up and down the field with limited scoring chances until Hannah Treadway and Elise McKinney combined on a nice goal by McKinney. Having finally tallied a goal against the newly aggressive Lady Generals, the world seemed to resume its slow rotation and air began to re-fill my lungs. Shortly after, the Lady Eagles gave a corner kick to the Lady Generals and Caitlin Bundy was forced to come off her line and make an outstanding play to in order to maintain a one goal lead. About the time I caught my breath and relaxed, however, the ocean parted and a Lafayette forward broke free on a through ball right down the middle of the field. The resulting and tidy shot tied the game and put the Lady Eagles back under pressure to tally another goal in order to leave with the expected 3 points.

Late in the half, Rachel Bertrand carried the ball down the right sideline and played a crossing ball that found the thunderous foot of Brooke Dobbs. Not new to placing the ball in the back of the net, Miss Dobbs didn't hesitate and completed the play to put the LCA Eagles up 2-1.

As play resumed in the second half, the Lady Generals overall aggression appeared to wane somewhat and the solid Lady Eagles went to work. Rachel Bertrand, Maddie Sjogren and Caroline Boone turned up the offensive heat and put a lot of pressure on the Lady Generals who were forced to defend and make quality saves in order to stay within striking distance of the Lady Eagles. Although the best defense is a good offense, the Lady Eagles back four plus 1 held court the rest of the half and made the one goal halftime lead stand. A very good outcome and three must have points in the ever difficult District 27 competition. What was thought to be an easy three points is not so easy anymore, apparently, as the Lady Generals served notice that they can now play with the big dogs.