Women’s Volleyball off to an outstanding start

BY MATTHEW CHIMURA
CRUSADER SPORTS EDITOR

The Holy Cross Women’s Volleyball team was picked to finish sixth in the Patriot League by the league’s coaches, but despite this grim outlook the team is off to their best start in over ten years. They began the season 6-0.

The Lady ‘Saders opened their season at home as they hosted the Crusader Classic on August 31 and September 1. The team started their year against Long Island University, and junior Cheryl Jakielo paced Holy Cross with 14 kills. Jakielo, along with Katie Snell (who had 9 kills) led the Lady ‘Saders to a 3-1 Victory over Long Island University.

On the second day of action in the Crusader Classic, the women’s volleyball team played a double header as they took on Sacred Heart University and Iona. In the first contest against Sacred Heart, Carissa Bennett paved the way for a 3-0 shutout. Bennett led the team with nine kills. She came up even bigger in the second contest as she added 19 kills in the Crusader’s 3-1 victory over the Gales. Jakielo and Bennett led the team with 16 kills and six service aces.

Last Weekend the team took its undefeated record to the Holiday Inn Express Volleyball Tournament which was hosted by Stony Brook University. The ‘Saders came out strong as they defeated Quinnipiac in their first game of the tournament by a score of 3-1.

In the second game of the tournament, the Lady ‘Saders rallied after losing their first game to take the next three games from host Stony Brook. Holy Cross moved on to win the match 3-1. The win over Stony Brook earned Holy Cross a spot in the finals against Siena.

The Crusaders were just too drained in the final match, as Siena took the first place trophy home by defeating the Crusaders by a score of 3-0. Snell was a bright spot for the Lady ‘Saders as she tallied 19 digs and six kills for the in the losing effort.

Despite the loss to Siena, the ‘Saders now stand with a record of 6-1 and a second place trophy from the Holiday Inn Express Tournament. Holy Cross is on a tear as they enter their final matches to prepare for their Patriot League schedule which opens September 21 as the Lady ‘Saders host Patriot League newcomer Long Island University.

Giudici not rusty as he leads men’s soccer in Vermont tourney

BY CRISTINA DE LA CHERVA
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

In the Patriot League preseason poll, the Holy Cross Men’s Soccer team was predicted to place sixth, despite their fourth place finish last year. They had a record of 3-3 in Patriot League play during the 2000 season. Their overall record was 8-10-0.

In last year’s Patriot League Playoffs, Lehigh, the number one ranked team and defending champions, defeated the Crusaders 4-0. American, a new member to the Patriot League this season, tied Lehigh in the preseason poll, receiving 82 points and an expected first place finish.

Junior midfielder Matt Ney, last year’s leading scorer, has a hopeful and positive outlook for the team this season. He states, “With the returning starting line-up from last year, we have been able to grow and mature as a team which will lead to success this season.” The team returned to Hart Field on September 1 for their first game against St. Peter’s. They started their season with a 2-1 victory against the Peacocks.

Junior Joe Foerster opened up the first half by scoring from 35 yards out. St. Peter’s made a quick comeback four minutes later with a goal from sophomore Vincente Caldas. Ten minutes into the second half, sophomore Chris Napolitano scored the game-winner inside the penalty area with an assist from Paul Kitson.

On September 8 and 9, the Crusaders traveled to the University of Vermont to play in the Smith Barney Soccer Classic. On Saturday, the team played the University of New Hampshire. At the end of the first half, UNH led with a 2-1 advantage. The Crusaders’ first goal was attributed to Oscar Cantu who was assisted by his teammate Matt Harvey. The second goal of the game was scored by Chris Napolitano in the 26th minute of play.

Sophomore Kevin Baker summarized the team’s performance over the weekend by saying, “I think as the season progresses, we’ll raise our level and we’ll surprise a lot of people in the patriot league.” Three players from the Holy Cross soccer team made the all-tournament team: Rusty Giudici, Pat Montgomery and Paul Kitson. In addition, Giudici was named the Smith Barney Defensive MVP and was also chosen by the Patriot League as the Men’s Soccer Defensive Player of the Week.

The Crusader Scoreboard

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<tr>
<th>FIELD HOCKEY</th>
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<tr>
<td>9/8 American Win, 4-0</td>
<td>9/8 @ Maine Win, 2-1</td>
<td>9/8 New Hampshire Loss, 3-2</td>
<td>9/8 Georgetown Win, 33-7</td>
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<tr>
<th>UPCOMING EVENTS</th>
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<td>9/14 &amp; 9/15 Volleyball Hartford Tournament, 7:00</td>
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<td>9/15 Field Hockey @ Bucknell, 12:00</td>
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<td>9/15 Football vs Harvard, 1:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/15 Men’s Soccer @ Bucknell, 3:00</td>
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Paul Kitson with an assist by Sophomore Chris Ruggi in the 26th minute of play.

Chris Napolitano tied the game with a penalty kick that was awarded to the Crusaders when a Wildcat defender took down Matt Ney inside the penalty area. With a score of 2-2 at the end of 90 minutes, the game was pushed into double overtime, where the Crusaders were defeated by a goal from New Hampshire’s Josh Gerald in the 113th minute of play. Holy Cross goalie Kevin Baker made seven saves throughout the duration of the game.

On Sunday, Holy Cross returned to Centennial Field to take on Vermont, the hosting team of the tournament. It wasn’t until the 83rd minute of play that Chris Ruggi scored the only goal of the game giving the Crusaders their second victory of the season. Oscar Cantu is credited with the assist.

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