Clark and Yanusas lead HC Field Hockey to perfection

By Dara Ely
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

Holy Cross field hockey is off to a great start in the 2001 season, with a record of 4-0. In addition to their great record, HC defense has allowed opponents to score just 2 goals against them so far. Last year the team finished with an impressive 14-7 record, winning the Patriot League Championship with a perfect 6-0 record in the league.

Having been picked to place third in the Patriot League preseason poll, the team returns six starters including leading scorers senior Lifon Huynh and junior Liz Tutella as well as Patriot League Co-Rookie of the Year, Jennifer Corsilli in goal.

Three-time Patriot League Coach of the Year (’92-, ’97-, ’00), head coach Meg Galligan returns to the Cross for her seventeenth season. Former Boston University (’90) standout Tina McDavitt is back for her second year as assistant coach as well. Senior Co-captains Mary Beth Clark and Lifon Huynh will help lead the team on and off the field in their quest for another season of perfection.

On August 29, the Crusaders began their season strong with a 7-1 victory over the University of Vermont with 6 different players scoring. Junior forward Liz Tutella scored 2 goals and had 2 assists while freshman forward Catheleen Kroman scored her first career goal just 12:30 into the game to give Holy Cross the lead.

Sophomore midfielder Jillian LeClair scored on a penalty corner and sophomore forward Heather Yanusas, junior forward Julie Silva and senior Lifon Huynh also contributed goals. Jennifer Corsilli had 3 saves in goal, gaining her first win while Vermont goalie Holly Golberg was tested with 12 saves for the Catamounts losing effort.

The Lady Saders next victim was Indiana whom they defeated 3-0 on September 2. Heather Yanusas and Liz Tutella combined for 3 goals, with Yanusas scoring 2 and assisting on 1 and Tutella scoring on the pass from Yanusas, after assisting her 2 goals.

This game marked Corsilli and the first shutout of the season with another strong game.

Holy Cross opened its Patriot League season against American on September 8, with a 4-0 victory. The league newcomer had been selected to finish first in the preseason poll, yet the strong Lady Saders proved to be a great challenge for the Eagles. Julie Silva, sophomore Kristina Doncker, Heather Yanusas and Lifon Huynh each scored a goal, while Liz Tutella picked up 2 assists. Corsilli made 5 saves in her second shutout of the season while Lauren McDonnell had 12 saves in goal for American.

On September 9, the Crusaders faced Hofstra, shutting them down in a close 2-1 game. Liz Tutella and Heather Yanusas each scored a goal, both with assists from Lifon Huynh. Hofstra senior Allison Barrett scored her team’s lone goal. Mary Beth Clark had a strong game with a career high 6 tackles.

The team is off to its best start since 1997 when they had an opening record of 5-0, and they hope to continue with this strong momentum that has carried over from last year’s strong season. Several Crusaders were rewarded for their efforts by the Patriot League this week.

Senior Co-captain Mary Beth Clark was selected as the League Defensive Player of the Week, racking up 29 interceptions and 12 tackles thus far in the season. Sophomore Heather Yanusas was named the Offensive Player of the Week having scored 6 goals and 2 assists, with at least one goal in each game. The Crusader’s next square off is set for September 15, at 12:00 PM, against rocks in a 2-1 game.

HC Field Hockey to break records

By Adam Musser
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

Perhaps surprising everyone but themselves, the Holy Cross Men’s and Women’s Cross-Country squads sprinted past the competition in the 2001 Central Connecticut State University Invitational.

In what head coach Jim Kavanagh called “the very best combined performance by a Holy Cross cross country team to begin a season,” the men captured the overall title for the first time in the school’s history with a comfortable 30-point cushion over second place Stony Brook.

The women raced to a spectacular second place finish behind the strength of several underclassmen.

Leading the sensational women’s performance were two freshmen, Katie Thornton and Erin Moseley, whose respective eighth and thirteenth overall placements vaulted the squad to a runner-up finish that has never before been surpassed.

Senior co-captains, Emily Hogan (third, team; eighteenth, women’s performance) and Emily Silva (fourth, team; twenty-sixth, overall) provided the experienced running and leadership that every team needs.

Sophomore Kaitlyn Wright, whose 20:18.1 was not only a personal best but, as head coach Jim Kavanagh would later put it, “a pleasant surprise,” rounded out the team’s top five.

“Leading the men’s squad was junior Sean McCarthy, whose 27:11.5 captured a third place finish overall. Not far behind were fellow juniors Owen Speer (second, team; eighth, overall) and Matthew Karakewicz (third, team; nineteenth, overall).

Speer’s 27:46.5 was a full 1:11 faster than his time at last year’s CCSU, and Coach Kavanagh praised him for “improving as the race went long.”

Senior Ryan Kerrigan, called the first in the Pre-race challenge that pointed out, among other things, that the respect the team wanted could only be had through performance. They had to earn it themselves out on the course. There were no guarantees.

The team was held back by a conservative strategy that Kavanagh thought was necessary for the first meet of the season, the head coach lauded his team’s ability to run as well as a pack and stay within striking distance of the race’s overall top five.

Perhaps more unexpected than the men’s overall championship was the second place finish obtained by the women.

Coach Kavanagh demonstrated his coaching abilities by giving credit to last year’s women’s coach, Egetta Alfonso, for an outstanding recruiting class.

The women only look to get better with the return of junior Ashley Boyle and the improvement of Emily Hogan, who is just now recovering from a debilitating knee injury.

Kavanagh stated that “breaking 19 minutes” is a goal thought to be synonymous with women’s cross-country and that everyone on the women’s cross country team is in training to try to break.

However, with this much talent and a great combination of youth and experience, many women are expected to be running in the eighteen minute range, and could see 18:00 threshold.

With the National Catholic Invitational at Notre Dame (the squad’s biggest meet next to the Patriot League Championship) coming up in two weeks, the Crusaders - men and women alike - seem poised to continue this unbroken streak. On this time, at least the Holy Cross family will not be surprised.