Despite 12-6 record, Field Hockey season cut short by Fairfield

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Holy Cross Field Hockey finished its season on Saturday Nov. 3 with a heartbreaking 2-1 loss to Fairfield in the first round of the Patriot League Championships.

The Stags scored at 18:48 in the first half off a penalty stroke by Karen Zanleoni and followed one minute later with another goal to take an early lead. The Crusaders managed to score in the second half when Lifon Huynh caught the back of the net off a rebounded shot. However, being outshoot 20-9, they were unable to pose more of an offensive threat.

This game brought the team’s final record to 12-6 (6-2 PL) overall. Though the Field Hockey team was unable to defend their Patriot League Championship Title, they still achieved the regular season title.

Several members of the 2001 Crusaders squad received Patriot League honors for their efforts in this strong season for the team. Senior co-captain and midfielder Lifon Huynh was named the Patriot League Defensive Player of the Year.

Having previously been named the League Second Team in her sophomore and junior years, this was an impressive end to her career at Holy Cross in which she started 56 games. This year she led the team defensively with 87 tackles and was third with 117 game appearances. This year she led the team defensively, contributing to their efforts in this strong season for the team.

Junior forward Liz Tutella came off an outstanding season in which she started all 18 games and led in scoring with 11 goals and seven assists. Because of her strong season, she was named to the First Team All Patriot League along with sophomore goalkeeper Jennifer Corsilli.

Coming off last year’s Rookie of the Year season, Corsilli continued to be a very strong presence in goal for the Crusaders, giving up just 17 goals in 1,238 minutes played. She was fourth in the nation in goals against average (.96) and sixth in save percentage (.749) with 12 wins, including six shutouts this season.

Sophomore Jillian LeClair had another strong season in midfield, leading the team with 162 interceptions and coming in third with 47 tackles. She also contributed four goals and five assists, all of which aided in her selection to the Second Team All Patriot League.

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Her classmate, forward Heather Yanunas had a breakout season in which she started every game and was second in scoring with ten goals and six assists, with three game-winning goals. She was also named to the Second Team.

It was also a breakout year for sophomore Kristina Docker who stepped up to fill a role vacated by a graduate, starting 17 games and contributing five goals and four assists, to rank her fourth on the team in scoring. Senior co-captain Mary Beth Clark also had a strong season defensively, contributing to the team’s six shutouts.

Despite a frustrating loss in the Patriot League Championships, this was still an impressive season for the team, who managed every game despite the loss of several strong seniors.

Some of the best wins of the season came against Lafayette 2-1, Indiana 3-0, Columbia 4-1 and Vermont 7-1. Head coach Meg Gal ligan rebuilt the team after losing key players and was able to help several younger players become indispensable assets to the team this year.

Congratulations to the team on their regular season title and their many impressive performances throughout the season.