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WESTWORD

WEB EXCLUSIVES

Girls' soccer team's season ends on positive note

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Despite its 8-13-3 record, head coach Brett Clish believes the varsity girls' soccer team ended the season better than he previously expected, given the youth and inexperience of the team.

"We are right around where we thought we should be," Clish said, "Maybe even a touch better. We are pretty happy about that."

The Wolves played Maine West in the first round regional game on May 18 against Maine West. At halftime, the Wolves were behind; however, they came back in the second half and won 2-1 in the last five minutes with a goal by junior center midfielder Carolyn Masterton.

In the regional final on May 22, the Wolves lost to New Trier 7-0. "Not a whole lot went well with that game," Clish said. "They are a very difficult team. Last time we played them, we lost 5-0."

The season was not without its highlights.

The Wolves made it to the Niles West tournament, something Clish said he found gratifying. However, the girls lost 2-0 to Glenbard West in the championship game.

The team also made it to the championship bracket in the Moline Tournament and placed fourth out of 18 teams. "Those were both two good tournaments that we had," Clish said. "The girls played well." Clish said that the best game the team played so far in the season was the Wheaton- St. Francis game at the Moline Tournament.

"Even though we lost in overtime, it was an exciting game," Clish said. "We came back to tie it with 30 seconds left. The girls played very well."

The team's sub-.500 record is due in part to injuries. Multiple team members have suffered from injuries, including junior midfielders Dunya Youkahana, Alex Noor, Allie Guiang and Viviana Lopez; sophomore defender Jessica Nianick and freshman forward Nicole Ostero.

"We have been missing a lot of girls throughout the season," Clish said. "That is why it was hard. We were inexperienced and we were missing a lot of girls."

Despite the injuries, Clish said the girls persevered and pushed themselves the whole season.

"One player I wasn't sure what was going to happen with was [senior defender] Alex Heidtke because of the [knee injury] she had at the end of volleyball and throughout basketball," Clish said. "She has been fighting through the entire season, but she has played every single minute of every game. She has been a trooper."

Clish recognized such standouts as junior forward Danya Snowsky, the team's leading scorer with 12 goals and five assists; Masterton with seven goals and four assists; junior forward Amanda Ko sophomore defender Nicole Moy and freshman midfielder Maggie Swanson, all with three goals each.

All-Conference athletes included Heidtke and Snowsky

"We generally looked to [Snowsky] to score the goals," Clish said. "She is quick on the field. Two years in a row having the most goals is really good."

Guiang looks forward to next season.

"We are working as a team, putting together some nice combinations," Guiang said. "We worked really hard, and this season showed it."



Alex Heidtke steals the ball. Photo by Rexly Penaflorida