

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

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by Jeff Stuart

Poolesville Field Hockey: A Sister Act

If the Poolesville field hockey team feels like an extended family, it should. Sisters Lori Defnet (a senior midfielder) and Amy Defnet (sophomore goalie) lead the way with another pair of sisters, Shelby Dahlen (senior goalie), and Allyson Dahlen (sophomore midfielder-forward), on the team. Long time Falcon field hockey fans may recall that oldest Defnet sister, Holly, anchored the Poolesville defense from the fall of 2004 to the fall of 2007, making the Frederick News Post first string All-Area team in 2007. She is a sophomore on the track team at Salisbury this year.

“I have had many sisters come through my program throughout my ten years here at PHS,” says Head Coach Gina Grubb, “and many have gone to play at the college level.” Other key players to watch are senior defensemen Dakota Bierly and Dara Craze. Coach Grubb’s Falcon field hockey has established itself as a perennial power. Following last year’s 10-4 record, an overtime 2-1 win over Churchill in the season’s third game highlighted the drive and hopes of this early season. Only Poolesville (5-0) and Whitman (5-0), a state semifinalist last year, remain undefeated. The two teams meet at Whitman on October 20.

“The Churchill game was very intense,” said the coach. “Churchill scored in the first minute of the game and it was back and forth for the rest of the first half. Within the first two minutes of the second half, Lori Defnet scored from an assist from Emily Jones to tie the game 1-1. We had many opportunities, but Churchill’s goal keeper kept us from converting. During the overtime, both teams had chances, but, again, the goal keepers had some great saves. With about thirty seconds left, a penalty stroke was called, and Cara Craze scored to give Poolesville the win.” Churchill beat Poolesville, 2-1, in overtime in the fifth game of the season last year.

The Lady Falcons opened 2009 with a 1-0 win over Richard Montgomery at home and were able to capitalize on a free hit coming into the circle by defender Dakota Bierly and the goal scored by Emily Jones with about five minutes left in the first half. “We had many other opportunities to put the ball in the net but just couldn’t capitalize,” said Grubb. “We have strong defense, and I am working now to develop our offense.” Goalie Amy Defnet and the defense held the Rockets to only three shots on goal.

Poolesville hosted Damascus by beating the Hornets, 2-0, outshooting their opponents, thirteen to zero. Emily Jones and Karissa Harris scored with assists from Chantal Agnew and Jami Auslander. Amy Defnet in goal led the Falcon defense.

Following the dramatic win at Churchill, the Falcons recorded their second and third shutouts of the year, winning 4-0 at Rockville and 5-0 at home against Kennedy.

About five minutes into the Kennedy game, Lori Defnet scored on a breakaway, firing a hard shot that rattled loudly off the lower back wall of the goal. She scored again on a corner a few minutes later on an assist from Craze. Craze scored on a penalty stroke, and Jami Auslander scored with a Karissa assist to round out the half. Poolesville led 4-0. About five minutes into the second half, Dakota Bierly scored with an assist from Allyson Dahlen to close out the scoring. Lori Defnet rolled her ankle in the second half and was taken to the locker room. She did not return to the game.

Their final two home games of the season are against Bethesda-Chevy Chase (10-2 last year), October 15, and Quince Orchard (9-3 in 2008), October 22. Poolesville, the number two seed in 2008, lost to Glenelg in last year's region final, ending a seven-year reign as region champs. The Falcons are looking for a deep run in the 2A playoffs this year.