

Sports

Collective effort helps UA girls sink Sycamore

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Cincinnati Sycamore and the specter of defeat hadn't been acquainted on the girls lacrosse scene since 2006.

Last year's Division I state champion had picked off 34 consecutive opponents before swooping into Marv Moorehead Stadium on Saturday, May 3.

The Aviators ended the day 34-1 in their last 35 outings, as Upper Arlington avenged a loss in last year's state-title game with its own convincing 14-9 victory.

"We've been playing great and really working together well," Golden Bears coach Lynda McCandlish said.

"We should now have the No. 1 seed going into the (postseason) tournament."

The Bears did in fact earn the top seed and were 13-2 before hosting Hilliard Darby Monday, May 5. In the showdown with Sycamore, University of Pennsylvania recruit Lindsay Godard pelted the Aves for seven goals.

Also etching their names in the UA scoring column were Kelly Mason (two), Nancy Baker, Caitlin Oberlin, Adrianne Ghidotti, Erin Junk and Erin Williams.

"I think the key to our success is everybody playing a role and making an impact," McCandlish said. "Every single person has stepped up.

"Our defense has been able to create turnovers and our offense has been patient and capitalizing on opportunities."

The Bears, who also hammered Worthington Kilbourne 18-6 April 29, pull the curtain on the regular season Wednesday, May 7, at Hilliard Davidson. The Ohio Schoolgirls Lacrosse Association tournament starts Monday, May 12.

Boys lacrosse

UA continued its mastery of Kilbourne with a 13-10 road win Wednesday, April 30. The Wolves, in existence since 1991, still have never beaten the Bears.

"We made a statement by winning that game," said UA senior goalkeeper Alex Benedick, who saved a season-high 14 shots. "A lot of people didn't think we'd be able to beat them.

"They had so much hype putting up numbers against other teams, like Dublin Scioto, who we obviously lost to; they killed them. But that's why you play the game."

Keith Olson's knack for winning faceoffs also keyed the victory, Benedick said.

UAHS (11-2) remained white hot with a 14-2 pasting of visiting Toledo St. John's Friday, May 2, and a 15-6 route of the visitors from Wooster May 3.

In a display of consistency, Eric Hanover scored four goals in each weekend game, Adam Donahue three and Alex Drake two.

"We definitely carried the momentum over from Wednesday," Benedick said. "Our offense has been playing a lot better than earlier in the season.

"I think on Friday night 12 of our 14 goals were assisted. We're being unselfish and just getting done what we need to get done."

The Bears host Davidson May 7, before heading to St. Xavier Friday, May 9, and Cincinnati Indian Hill Saturday, May 10. The Midwest Tournament will take place May 17-18 in Detroit.

The Ohio High School Lacrosse Association tournament opens May 24. UA won its region with the victory over St. John's,