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Sports

Godard leads UA lacrosse team past Academy

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By **CHRIS GALOSKI**

Published: Friday, April 25, 2008 10:20 AM EDT

Contrary to what the 1980s Nytol commercial claims, it's rivalry wins that help folks get their Z's.

So there's little question that all those affiliated with the Upper Arlington girls lacrosse team slept tight Thursday, April 24.

It was on this evening that the Golden Bears swept into the heartland of Columbus Academy and locked down a 10-7 victory, in a matchup opposing two of Ohio's annual elites.

"When I was in high school it was a rivalry too, always a big game for us," said UA coach Lynda McCandlish, an All-American with the Bears as a senior in 2002.

"It's definitely exciting to come back and continue the rivalry, now being on the coaching side of it."

If the 50-minute scrap had to be surmised in two words, the first would be "Lindsay" and the second "Godard."

But UA's senior midfielder shook off her postgame kudos almost as effectively as she juked and jagged through the Vikings' defense.

In the latter regard, Godard slid four goals past Academy junior goalkeeper Alannah Linkhorn, who has assembled her own commendable campaign.

Godard's first back-of-the-net blast came less than three minutes into the affair, sending UA ahead 1-0, and her final strike with 12:41 left virtually iced the issue at 9-4.

"It's a lot of instinct, but I work on my dodging," Godard said of her evasive open-field tactics. "I'm a cross-country runner, so those little jerks are kind of in me."

Vikings coach Anne Horton, whose program called it a night with a 7-2 record, attributed the loss almost solely to her club's erratic passing.

"I thought we did a great job on Godard," Horton said, "because I think the girl could probably average about 10 a game if she wanted to. She's that good."

"I thought we did a good job keeping her under control. Even with four goals, I think that's pretty good. We just weren't getting rid of the ball quick enough. We had so many unforced turnovers and that was the difference for us. If we hadn't of done that, I really do believe we would've won the game."

Though the ball movement may have been less than ideal for the Vikes, their sharing of the scoring burden was superb. Six players accounted for Academy's seven goals. Ali Dillon, with two, was CA's lone multi-goal producer.

"You like the balance," Horton said. "Because then you don't have to worry about one go-to girl that everybody is trying to shut down."

Meanwhile, Adriane Ghodotti slammed home two goals for UA (10-2 record). In the cages, the Golden Bears' Kevyn Harer smothered five shots and Linkhorn turned back six.

Linkhorn, in her first year starting after the graduation of imposing All-American Annie Carruthers (Ohio State), has provided a source of stability. Considering that CA also graduated the majority of its defense in 2007, her play has been even more impressive.



SNP photo by Chris Galoski
Columbus Academy's Laura Caplinger (left) gives chase to Upper Arlington's Lindsay Godard, and the Vikings' Natasha Leickly joins the fray Thursday, April 24.

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"Alannah paid her dues last year. You get a different stature in the cage," Horton said. "She was a softball catcher for years, an elite catcher.

"So her hand-eye coordination is incredible. It's a different style of goalie for us, but she has been very steady."

Horton concluded that once her laxers refine their ball-handling and defense, they'll be ready for the Ohio Schoolgirls Lacrosse Association tournament, which begins May 12.

The Bears, 2007 state runners-up to Cincinnati Sycamore, have a more concrete vision lodged in their minds.

"We've been working so hard to get to where we are, playing as a team," Godard said. "Our main goal is to make it to states and win this time."

McCandlish agreed, and gave a brief state-of-the-club synopsis.

"I think we have a lot that we still need to work on to come together as a team," she said.

"But the girls are doing great, and I think in the long run we are where we need to be."

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