



## Sports

### Godard leads Golden Bears' title charge

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When the dust, or shall we say rubber shavings, had settled on the prescription athletic turf at Medina, it was the Upper Arlington girls lacrosse team that reigned supreme once again at the conclusion of the Division I state tournament.

Winners of the championship for the fourth time in seven years, the Golden Bears (21-2) gained a measure of vengeance for a bitter loss to Cincinnati Sycamore in a title showdown a year ago with a dominating 14-8 win over the Aves (20-2) in the rematch on Saturday, May 31.

All-American Lindsay Godard led the charge with game-highs of four goals and three assists. She was particular instrumental in a 4-0 burst to begin the second half that propelled UA to another crown.

"This literally means the entire world to us," Godard said. "Everybody on our team gave a full effort and deserves credit because Sycamore is such a great team."

Not to be outdone was the yeoman work done in the back by the Golden Bears, who limited Aves star Emile Hunter to three goals, one coming late with little in doubt.

UA defender Megan Knoop was pivotal in matching up with Hunter, while goalie Kevyn Karer registered six saves, many of the spectacular variety.

"It was important to shut (Hunter) down because she is a very good player," Golden Bears coach Lynda McCandlish said. "She is also their emotional leader, but we did a good job on her."

Beginning the contest in style several minutes after the opening whistle, Godard found the back of the net to commence the matter on the scoreboard. By the time halftime rolled around, UA was ahead 7-5 and ready to take control.

And after the break, Godard sparked the decisive spurt that gave the Golden Bears breathing room to seal the deal via setting the tempo and playing keep away with the ball in the offensive third.

"I think ball control and possession were the keys to the game," McCandlish said. "That has been our focus all year, especially in terms of winning the draws and setting up our offense."

Capping her career in style, Godard finished with 78 goals during the spring but was quick to deflect the praise to her teammates. Avery Toothman, Caitlin Oberlin and Kelly Mason each added two goals apiece, while Lauren Hanover, Erin Junk, Nancy Baker and Adriane Ghidotti also tallied for UA.

"I could not have scored any of those goals without my teammates," Godard said. "It was quite a team effort by everybody here."

Meanwhile, McCandlish made history with the win. She became the first person in history to captured an Ohio championship as both a player and a coach. McCandlish led the Golden Bears to the 2002 crown during her playing days.

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--Lindsay Godard

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