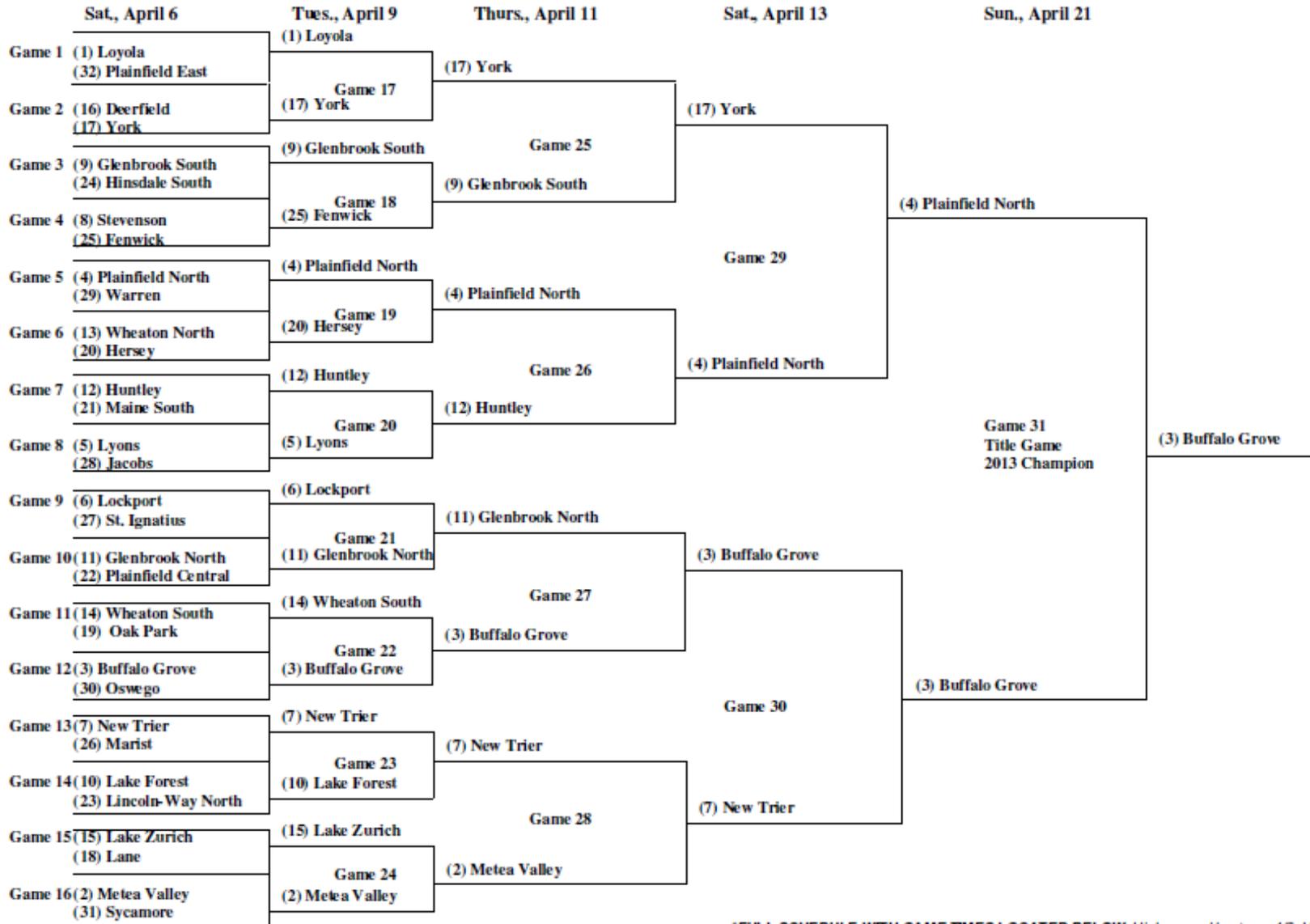


2013 Girl's Tournament

2013 PEPSI SHOWDOWN BRACKET PRESENTED BY CAPTAINU.COM



**FULL SCHEDULE WITH GAME TIMES LOCATED BELOW. Higher seed hosts on 4/9; Higher seed hosts on 4/11 as long as opponent has hosted. If both teams have not hosted, higher seed hosts. All games on 4/6 and 4/13 will take place at Olympic Park in Schaumburg.*

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

Buffalo Grove 2, Plainfield North 1 PK

SATURDAY, APRIL 13**Field 1**

Lake Zurich 3, Lincoln-Way North 0

Plainfield North 2, York 0

Lake Forest 3, Lane 1

Buffalo Grove 1, New Trier 0

Field 2

Hersey 4, Sycamore 0

Loyola 2, Lyons 1

Oswego 1, Lockport 0

Huntley 4, Glenbrook North 0

Field 3

Hinsdale South 3, Plainfield East 0

Oak Park 4, Plainfield Central 0

JCA 1, Morton 1

Metea Valley 3, Glenbrook South 1

Field 5

Jacobs 1, Stevenson 1

Young 2, Wheaton Academy 1 OT

Payton 3, Joliet West 1

Warren 3, Marist 1

Field 7

Maine South 2, Wheaton North 1

Fenwick 1, Wheaton South 1

Deerfield 2, St. Ignatius 0

Marian Catholic 3, U-High 1

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Marist 0, Lincoln-Way North 0

Stevenson 6, Deerfield 1

Wheaton Academy 2, Payton 0

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

York 3, Glenbrook South 1

Buffalo Grove 4, Glenbrook North 1

Plainfield North 2, Huntley 1

New Trier 1, Metea Valley 0

Lockport at Oswego, ppd.

Loyola 4, Warren 0

Lake Zurich 3, Fenwick 2

Maine South 6, Plainfield Central 0

St. Ignatius 0, Oak Park 0

Plainfield East 3, Sycamore 2

Wheaton South 1, Lincoln-Way North 0

Lane 3, Marist 1

Lyons 1, Hinsdale South 0

Hersey 1, Lake Forest 1

Wheaton North 1, Jacobs 0

JCA 6, U-High 0

Joliet West 2, Morton 1

Young 3, Marian Catholic 0

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Huntley 2, Lyons 1

Glenbrook North 3, Lockport 1

Buffalo Grove 3, Wheaton South 0

New Trier 4, Lake Forest 0

Glenbrook South 2, Fenwick 1

Plainfield North 1, Hersey 0 PK

York 2, Loyola 1

Metea Valley 1, Lake Zurich 0

Maine South 5, Jacobs 1

St. Ignatius 1, Plainfield Central 0

Oak Park 1, Oswego 0

Stevenson 1, Hinsdale South 0

Wheaton North 3, Warren 1

Lane 4, Sycamore 0

Deerfield 1, Plainfield East 0

Wheaton Academy 2, Joliet Catholic 1 PK

Young 2, U-High 1 PK

Marian Catholic 4, Joliet West 1

Payton 2, Morton 2

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Huntley 1, Maine South 0

Lyons 2, Jacobs 0

Glenbrook North 4, Plainfield Central 0

Lockport 4, St. Ignatius 0

Wheaton South 5, Oak Park 1

Buffalo Grove 3, Oswego 1

New Trier 5, Marist 0

Lake Forest 1, Lincoln-Way North 0

Young 4, Joliet West 2

Wheaton Academy 3, U-High 0

Payton 5, Joliet Catholic 0

Morton 4, Marian Catholic 0

Glenbrook South 5, Hinsdale South 0

Fenwick 3, Stevenson 2 OT

Plainfield North 7, Warren 0

Hersey 2, Wheaton North 0

Lake Zurich 3, Lane 2

Loyola 5, Plainfield East 0

York 3, Deerfield 1

Metea Valley 5, Sycamore 0

Blogs

Buffalo Grove

Kirsten Erickson

4-21-2013

The Bison are the 2013 Pepsi Showdown champions! After an intense game against a very talented Plainfield North team, we were able to come home with the win after two overtimes and a shootout. It was amazing to be able to walk the field and use the locker rooms that professional players have used, a fact that definitely filled us with excitement and nerves! Plainfield started the game hard and was able to score early, a wake up call if there ever was one. Despite some close opportunities, the first half ended at 1-0, so we made sure to come back strong in the second half. Our goal came from a beautiful shot by Sara Busse, tying up the game by the middle of the second half. While our offense had some close scoring opportunities, the game stayed tied all through the rest of the half and into two overtimes. Then came the always dreaded penalty shootout. After what made for a tense 20 minutes, Allie Ingham, Skylar, Kelli and Carly Brown were able to make amazing shots while Sarah O'Connor came up with a crucial save to bring the Bison to victory. We would like to congratulate Plainfield on a well played game and to thank our entire coaching staff and the parents for their help and support throughout this tournament. WE DID IT!

4-14-2013

After a 4-1 victory over Glenbrook North courtesy of goals from Colleen Zickert, Kelli Zickert, Sara Busse and Allie Ingham, the Bison set their sights on beating New Trier for a chance to play at Toyota Park. There were plenty of nerves to go around, considering this was the last team to get by in order to make it to the final. We ended up putting those nerves to good use, though, by letting them motivate us to play well. The goal came from a hard shot low and to the corner by Kelli Zickert in the first half, putting us up 1-0. We didn't let this lead slow down our play in any way because New Trier was a physical team that never quit. The rest of the game was all about playing smart and defending strongly. In the end, after some great defending by Shannon Guercio, Sara Brawley and Jay Jay Lowery among others, and great saves by Sarah O'Connor, we were able to shut down New Trier's offense and come home with a 1-0 victory. The excitement of playing at Toyota park, where the likes of the Chicago Fire and the Chicago Red Stars have played, is indescribable. We can't wait to take on Plainfield North in the Pepsi Showdown final. It should be an incredible game, and we hope to come out on top.

4-11-2013

After another exciting game, the Bison were able to shut out Wheaton South in a 3-0 victory. We came in with the goal of winning playing our game, relying on consistent possession and creative play. The first goal came from a rocket from Kelli Zickert low and to the corner off of a penalty kick just outside the box. Not too long after, Sarah Busse was able to muscle her way

through the Wheaton defense and score, making it 2-0. Our offense kept the momentum going, with Sarah scoring another impressive goal just before the first half ended. The second half was all about keeping our lead, and our defense was able to shut down Wheaton's offense effectively throughout. Our offense managed to keep the pressure on, though, despite a comfortable lead and it was a half full of shots missing Wheaton's goal by just inches. In all, it was a much more satisfactory performance than our last game, and we hope to keep the momentum going in the next round.

4-7-2013

The Bison got off to a solid start, beating Oswego 3-1 in a very windy and physical game. The first goal came courtesy of Kelli Zickert after a solid assist by Allie Ingham. While this pumped the team up, we made sure to keep playing hard since the wind was so strong it could mean the difference between a win and loss. With that in mind, we continued the pressure on Oswego's defense throughout the first half. Not too long after the first goal, Sarah Busse made an impressive goal after an assist by Skylar Groth, giving us a 2-0 lead. Oswego was able to push back, though, and scored soon before the half ended. Knowing that 2-1 is a dangerous lead in soccer, we all agreed we would have to play hard the second half. Once Kelli scored another great goal quick into the second half with help from another great ball from Skylar, we were able to hold on to our lead for the rest of the game through a consistently solid performance by our defenders. While we are happy with the result, we agreed that Oswego's physical style distracted us from our usual style of play, so we plan to focus on what we do best for next time. We look forward to stepping it up against Wheaton South on Tuesday.

4-2-2013

The Buffalo Grove Bison have already had to deal with losing four talented Seniors last year and a first game blizzard, but we see our first Pepsi Showdown as the biggest challenge yet. We feel honored to be among such talented teams in such a competitive tournament. Our team is made up of mostly returning players, a fact we hope to use to our advantage. However, a team can never have too much chemistry, so we emphasize team bonding, whether it's through a game of Catch Phrase, snowman building, or a groutfit day practice. Led by our coaches and our captains Kelly Vande Merkt, Skylar Groth and Jess Kovach, we have also been working to perfect our fast-paced, possession-heavy style of play. After a strong start to the season, we are confident this hard work will pay off and we'll be able to make a strong statement in this tournament.

Deerfield

Sarah Ginn

4-9-2013

Warriors prevail over Bengals

Coming back from a tough win against Niles West, the Warrior soccer team played their second game of the Pepsi Showdown tournament against Plainfield East. After a long drive, the Warriors were itching to play this game. The Warriors started off attacking the Bengals right

away with many shots at the goal. There were multiple chances for the Warriors, including a header by Amanda Imyak that went wide from off a cross from Trishie Schweinfurth. After the first half, the game was still tied 0-0. After a slower start in the second half, the Warriors kept attacking offensively. Samara Haas had a shot that just went inside the post and touched the net, but the referees did not rule the shot a goal. Finally, in the 78th minutes the Warriors hard work was rewarded when Margot Sylvan took a pass from JoElla Guagliardo and beat the keeper with her shot. The Warriors played a strong game and pulled out the win. The Warriors return for another game in the Pepsi tournament on Thursday.

4-6-2013

Warriors fall to York

The Deerfield Girls Soccer team opened the Pepsi Showdown tournament at Olympic Park in Schaumburg with a loss, 1-3, to a talented York team. The Warriors were on the board first when Emily Kellow received the ball through a passing combination of Trishie Schweinfurth and Amanda Imyak. York then went on to score two unanswered goals before half time. JoElla Guagliardo performed a phenomenal defensive effort against York's midfielder Bryce Banuelos, a West Virginia commit. York then scored towards the end of the second half with Deerfield taking a more offensive approach. We are looking forward to fixing our mistakes and doing better in the next game.

JoElla Guagliardo

4-1-2013

Our team is so excited to have the opportunity to compete in the Pepsi Showdown Tournament. We are ready to play against great teams from around the area, as well as showcase our speed and intensity. We have been fortunate to have had 3 games on turf prior to the tournament, and despite the crazy weather conditions, we are happy that we were able to get used to the surface, which should benefit us and allow us to move the ball quickly around the field. We are very proud of our playing so far in our season, and will continue to work hard and improve our level of play. This year we have 13 returning varsity players, as well as a few new faces, including three very talented freshmen. We look forward to playing the high level soccer that the tournament offers, and showing our competitors how tough the Warriors really are.

Fenwick

Lizzie Cusick

4-6-2013

Fenwick kicked off the Pepsi Showdown with a bang this morning as we defeated Stevenson 3-2. Stevenson scored twice in the first half, ending the half 2-0. Switching sides meant switching the advantage of the wind and we came out strong for the second half. There was a hand ball called in Stevenson's box, allowing Bridget Hillsman to score on a penalty kick. Jackie Mannion sent a great ball to Bridget and she scored again moments later, tying the game at 2-2. An overtime with the golden goal was then played and we got a corner minutes in. Emily

McGann kicked a great ball to the box and Jackie Mannion got her foot on it to finish the game at 3-2. This is very exciting to us as this is the first time Fenwick has won a first round game! We commend Stevenson on their effort; it was a great game. Thank you to Joe Trost for setting up the tournament and sponsors. We look forward to our upcoming game this Tuesday. GO FRIARS!!!

Glenbrook North

Hannah Nordberg

4-10-2013

Glenbrook North Spartans, 11th seed, upset Lockport, 6th seed, in an exciting match. Spartans trailed 0-1 within the first ten minutes of game, but with motivation, the defense found the forwards feet and put one in the back of the net. At the end of the second half, a foul was called against Lockport in the 18-yard box, and Rachel Hirshman scored the penalty kick putting the Spartans ahead with a 2-1 lead. After a goal from Maggie Washelesky with 15 minutes left in the game, the Spartans were able to hold up Lockport and end the game with a winning score of 3-1. Ultimately, the teamwork across the field led the Spartans to their success. The Spartans look forward to playing Buffalo Grove on our home field Thursday.

4-9-2013

As we saw the life size photos, the decoration, the music, and the crowd of people, we were instantly pumped up and excited to be playing. During warmups our touches were quick and we felt well rested and ready to play. We were mentally set, and it showed as we started the game with energy, scoring early on. The defense did a great job connecting out of the back. We are pleased with our 4-0 victory but know we are going to have to play even better in our next game against Lockport. We are excited to see what we can do against a higher seeded team.

4-1-2013

The Glenbrook North varsity girl's soccer team is honored and excited to be a part of the Pepsi Showdown tournament. We are entering this year's season with 20 girls, of which 15 are returning. With our strong group of experienced players along with the talent of the new varsity players, this year is looking very promising. Although it is our first year participating in the Pepsi Showdown, we are looking to make a statement by being a competitive force against the top teams in the tournament. At the end of our games, whether we win or lose, our goal is to leave everything out on the field and show the passion that we have for this game.

Hersey

Hersey Girls Soccer Team

4-12-2013

It's been a long week for the Hersey girl's soccer team, but one that we can be proud of. Our Pepsi tournament got started in winning fashion last Saturday after defeating a solid Wheaton North team 2-0 in gusting winds. After playing to a 1-1 draw through two overtimes against our

conference rivals Prospect on Monday, we headed to Plainfield on Tuesday to take on one of the top teams in the state for the second time in two weeks. After 100 scoreless minutes of soccer, and withstanding relentless pressure, the game was decided on penalty kicks. Unfortunately, we came up short losing 5-3 on penalty kicks. Although disappointed with the loss, we were extremely happy with our effort and play against such a well-coached and quality program. After a conference win on Wednesday, we headed over to Lake Forest to take on a very fast and athletic Lake Forest team. With tired legs, we were able to get one in the back of the net in the second half and squeak out a 1-1 draw. Tomorrow, we conclude our Pepsi tournament against Sycamore and hope to go out on a winning note.

Go HVS Huskies!

Lauren Gierman

4-11-2013

Wow - what a great Pepsi Showdown! Our game against Plainfield North on Tuesday was a very physical and hard fought battle. Double overtime and then PK's resulted in a 1 to 0 loss for us. But we have to say we left everything out on the field.

Our Thursday game against Lake Forest resulted in a 1 to 1 tie. The weather conditions were pretty rough - cold and damp and the soccer ball was skipping all along the field. Great competition and we are satisfied with the results considering the weather conditions.

Can't wait for our next Pepsi Showdown game on Saturday!

Senior Casey Weyrich #23

3-31-2013

We are very excited to be in the Pepsi showdown this year. As in the past it has provided our team with many talented programs outside of our conference. We look forward to the tough competition and good games. And can't wait to show our true talent.

Hinsdale South

Vanessa Niestrom

4-8-2013

After a tough loss against Glenbrook South, I feel that the hornets have a better idea of what needs to be executed in our match on Tuesday against Stevenson High School. I think that our loss has helped is realized that we have to have more urgency on the field and work at transitioning up and down the field as a unit. We are ready to play Tuesday and compete against yet another good team. We need to play from start to finish with energy and have the end goal in mind, winning. The Pepsi Showdown gave us another fun experience this past Saturday and we cannot wait to continue with the tournament.

4-1-2013

After only losing one senior last year the Hornets are looking to have a successful 2013 season. Team chemistry will not be a problem this year because we are returning with essentially the same roster as last season. Early on in our season last year we suffered many injuries and were still trying to come together as a team because we lost half our team as seniors the year before. In the 2012 season we had many new young varsity players who were still trying to find their place on the varsity squad. As the season went on, our team developed as a whole. After winning our first game 4-1 against Stagg the Hornets show excitement to be playing this spring. Although we have not been outside all that much I believe it gave us the benefit of the doubt because we have conditioned more and our first touches are stronger which showed in our first game. Every year this tournament gives us opportunities to play teams that we normally would not get the chance to face. We are coming into the Pepsi Showdown ready to play and we cannot wait to see the teams we will be matched up against. Hornets are bringing it back this year!

Huntley

Taylor Hilbrant #11

4-13-2013

After the loss against Plainfield North, our team knew that we had a lot to improve on to get where we needed to be. And while we didn't get to practice after the game on Thursday, we came into the game against Glenbrook North knowing what we needed to do to achieve what we wanted.

Before the game started, coach told us that we needed to take some early and quick shots, to put Glenbrook North on their toes and to rev us up. We succeeded in getting some quick shots off, but those then tapered off. There were on and off moments during the first half for us, and we left the half tied at 0-0. After half time we came out and were ready to go. Our first goal was scored on a free kick, and three other goals followed that. During the second half we really found our place and were able to possess the ball really well. There are always things that can be worked on, but the team should be nothing but proud and happy about the performance that they gave today.

Every year the Pepsi Showdown brings us some good competition so that we can learn what we need to work on in order to win 'those' games and to go far during the season. This year during the tournament we faced incredible teams and when we needed to, we stayed strong and played with everything we had.

For the three years that I have been involved, it has been a fantastic tournament full of incredible players and teams. It has been such an honor to be a team worthy of being in the showdown and I am so proud of my team for being 3-1 in the tournament this year, which is no easy feat. Things can only get better from here, and I can't wait to see what the team will achieve during the rest of the season. We wish Buffalo Grove and Plainfield North the best of the luck in the championship game next weekend. I also wish my team the best of luck next

year at the Pepsi Showdown; you guys are amazing and you are going to kick butt next year. Go Huntley!

Joliet

Angie Requena

4-13-2013

Today marked our last tournament game, a farewell match for our graduating seniors and a reminder of the great experience that the Pepsi Showdown truly is, for our underclassmen. When we arrived at Olympic Park this afternoon, the harsh winds and bitter cold only momentarily slowed us down, for we had a serious game to play. During our warm up, coaches Ashley Veigelt and Laura Trevillian hopped in to a game of “keep away.” This particular moment accurately captured the excitement we all draw from the game and a mutual passion for the sport and one another.

Roughly 20 minutes late (due to an overtime match on our field), the game commenced against Payton High School. For the most part, we kept the ball away from the goal, but it tended to remain in the middle of the field. Possession was ours for a good portion of the half and we led multiple unsuccessful runs down the sidelines with failed shots on goal. Basically, looks and ideas were there, but offense was unable to finish through. Our first goal, however, came with a breakaway from Synthia Garcia. By this time, Payton had already scored and at halftime we were tied. During the second half, not as many looks and finishes were there, but we didn't give up. A foul in the box gave Payton the penalty and sophomore goalkeeper Jolene Asbury couldn't get her hands on it. From this point, we became relentless with our forward movements but started to slack defensively. Payton scored again in the last 10 minutes of the game. We didn't put our heads down, however, and finished out our last game of the Pepsi Showdown with intensity.

Overall, this tourney truly was about the concept of “one.” This past week was a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence. Never again will we take the field on the same day with the same teammates against the same team. Each second of every game, in and beyond the Pepsi Showdown, is final and irreplaceable. This particular tournament—emitting in its motto, “One life, one love, one tourney,” a sense of honor, in getting the opportunity to participate, an appreciation toward your family of teammates, and prospect to play at the collegiate level—stands as a truly unforgettable experience I nor this year's Joliet West varsity squad will soon be forgetting.

4-11-2013

Each day, whether it be a practice or a game, our team has continued to progress. With a special focus on the fundamental skills at Tuesday's and Monday's practices, we have gained a greater understanding of how to move the ball up the field, and to the goal of course. We were able to apply these basics today in our home game against Morton. Knowing that Morton had defeated Marion Catholic in their Pepsi Showdown games 4-0, a nervous tension set upon the

field. When the whistle blew and the game commenced, however, we forgot how to lose and remembered how to win.

At the beginning of the first half, a Morton opponent carried the ball, broke through our defense, and scored. This particular moment, I remember, sent an almost electric shock through our team, telling us to wake up out there. Morton continued to possess the ball on our half, but sophomore goal keeper Sam MacInnes refused to let anything into the net. Her best save of the game came when she exploded into the air and, off her fingertips, deflected a shot threatening the upper left-hand corner of the goal.

Our first goal came in the same half off of a corner kick. By this time, we had begun to apply more pressure on Morton's half and could feel them weakening from our constant force. Junior defender Shea Pierce placed a perfect ball into the box where senior midfielder Marissa Moreno rocketed a shot into the back of the net. During the second half, we came out harder than we've been known to in any second half of previous games. A foul on the 40-yard line was the perfect spot for me to launch the ball over the keeper and into the net. For the most part, Morton was stuck on their half, due to our impenetrable defensive line and control of the middle of the field.

The game screeched to a halt, however, when junior midfielder Yasmin Martinez collided heads with a Morton opponent. Both girls suffered facial injuries, but were sent for proper treatment. When Yasmin was on the ground, we saw no tears, no realization of pain, just sheer determination, almost as if she was planning on returning for the remaining 16 minutes. The team huddled together and decided to win for "Yaz." We did just that. The remaining time of the second half was us shutting down the other team. An increased intensity in our game play emerged and we ended our third Pepsi Showdown game 2-1.

Now, we hope to take the confidence from our victory today and apply it toward our two remaining Pepsi Showdown games. After all, redemption is our specialty.

4-11-2013

From day one of practice, our team has maintained a determination towards redemption. With two new coaches, as well as a new program and ideologies, this season hasn't been the easiest. However, each of us twenty girls continues to work tremendously hard at practice and in our games. Slowly, but surely, this group of girls is reclaiming Joliet West soccer program its prestige.

Our first game of the Pepsi Showdown against Whitney Young ended in a loss of 4-2. In spite of the scoreboard, we kept our heads up and focused on the positive aspects of the loss: our first goal off of a play, between Yasmin Martinez and Synthia Garcia, as well as an addition to our then 3-game scoring streak. In our second game, at Marion Catholic, we struggled in the first half with possession and communication, but came out stronger in the second half. The final score read 4-1, another loss for us, but a win off the corner and an exchange from Brittany Schutter to Clarissa Ramirez got us on the board.

As our season progresses, our team radiates a growing hunger for victory, demonstrated by our now 5-game scoring streak. We take each loss as motivation to improve and I only foresee

great things for our team in the 2013 Pepsi Showdown.
Underdogs we seem, but Joliet West we will redeem.

Lake Forest

Lucy Edwards

4-11-2013

We started off well. Very fast paced and high intensity. The weather took a toll on our playing. Because of the light rain we had to anticipate the ball and be on our toes. Sydney Johnston took a long shot from about 35 yards. It was a great firm shot and slipped in the goal. After the goal the intensity started to lower and the game began to get sloppy but we were able to hold them and finish out the half. In the second half both teams started off slow. Because of the conditions we struggled with our first touch. Which ultimately lead to the goal against us. The corner that Hersey got was well served. We were not prepared and failed to mark tight therefore they scored. After Hersey scored the game picked up again with each team trying to fight out a win. Unfortunately we were not able to come up on top and the ending score was 1-1.

Lake Zurich

Katie McCullough

4-6-2013

Today was a great day for the Lake Zurich bears. We edged Lane Tech 3-2, moving on to play Metea Valley. Goals were scored by Vanesa Abad, Jordan Jackson, and Danielle Tassi. We were dominating 3-0 until great penalty kicks were taken by Lane right outside our 18-yard box in the second half. I have a good feeling we can do it again on Tuesday!!

4-1-2013

As the weather stays cold, our team is only warming up more for the promising season ahead. Coming back from a successful conference champion season last year, we are more excited than ever to get back out on the field and defend our title. We had a rocky tournament record last year, so we are looking forward to the Pepsi Showdown to redeem ourselves. We know only great things can come from us this season from our dedication we have towards practice and it will all be reflected in our playing on the field. Our team consists 12 returning players from last year's successful season. Included in this group are two of our very skilled teammates, Vanesa Abad and Meaghan Gelinis, who were named captains this year, who both show exceptional leadership and guidance for the old and new talented members of our team. Although the season is just getting started, we have bonded both on and off the field, thanks to team outings and the experience of many of us playing together last year, which will make for a very strong season. Pepsi Showdown was one of our favorite events last year because of the opportunity to play against a group of teams too far away to play in the regular season. We also love the atmosphere of the tournament, with the music playing and the samplings of different sport drinks available. We love that it is in the beginning of the season so we get a lot of

experience under our belts. We hope to go all the way in the Pepsi Showdown this year, and represent Lake Zurich with our skills as well as our sportsmanship.

Lane Tech

Cecilia Magos

4-13-2013

Despite losing 3-2 against Lake Zurich last Saturday, we've definitely come a long way since then. The score didn't reflect how we played and the outcome should've favored us. We played hard and aggressive but a couple careless defensive mistakes were enough for them to take the win. So we went back to the blackboard and won our following game against Sycamore 4-0.

Coming from a win, on Thursday we went to Marist more than ready to play. It was an intense game and even though the other team was getting heated, we kept our cool, were focused, and played smart and won the game 3-1. This was a great mental test for us and I'm proud of my team for handling it the way we did. We're definitely looking forward to our next challenge.

Lockport

Ally Brehm, #15

4-8-2013

Despite the strong winds this Saturday, we were able to secure the win against St. Ignatius. The team was aggressive but we came out strong, scoring three goals in the first half against the wind. With the strong winds in our favor second half, we were able to put away one more goal, securing the win. Everyone on our team played well this Saturday. We were able to possess the ball, communicate, and work together. We hope to carry this over into our game this Tuesday against Glenbrook North. We are fired up to play and excited to advance in the Pepsi Showdown.

4-1-2013

The Lockport Porters are excited to be back for another opportunity to play in the Pepsi Showdown. Last year we made it to the Elite Eight, so we are hoping to build upon that and make it even farther this year. We are going to miss the eleven seniors that we lost in 2012, but we have gained strong players this year. Even though there are many new players, we have already proven to work together as a team. Our ten seniors provide a strong group of leaders that plan to end our high school careers on a high note. We have high expectations for this tournament as well as our season. The beginning of the season has been rough with the cold weather, but we are finally getting outside to play. Although 4 out of our first 7 games have been canceled, we've had a good start with two wins and a tie. We hope to build upon this in the upcoming tournament. We are excited to be back in the Pepsi Showdown for the opportunity to play teams that we wouldn't normally play in the regular season. Good luck to everyone!

Loyola Academy

Emily Affinito

4-9-2013

There is only one thing that can quench a Rambler's thirst and that is Pepsi (although free Muscle Milk comes close). We came out on top with a 5 to 0 win against Plainfield East in the first round of the Pepsi Showdown. Although we had a hard time finishing at first, defender Katie Taylor managed to head one in the back of the net to start the scoring run. In the second half, sisters Corey and Devin Burns added another goal each, followed by two more goals from sophomore forward Kathryn Cichon. Our first challenge is complete. However, there are many more games to be played, goals to be scored, and celebrations to be had before we can arrive at our final destination: Toyota Park. When the whistle blows, expect nothing less than a fight until the end from the team sporting maroon and gold.

For live updates on each game, follow us on twitter @LAGirlsVSoccer.

4-1-2013

High expectations are in order for our team this year. Being champions of the Pepsi Showdown two years in a row only gives us more of a reason to affirm our skill, dedication, and love for this game. Although our team is packed with young players (including six outstanding freshmen), it is evident that each member of our team can compete at a high level of play. Despite difficult weather conditions and shocking injuries, our team has started off the season strong, with six shutouts led by several key senior players: Corey Burns, Jill Stevens, and Brittany San Roman. We are aware that every team in this tournament is ready to put up its best fight against us Ramblers, but we are also confident in what we can bring to the field. We train often, pray often, and play often, and nothing is going to stop us until we "finish it."

Lyons

Gabbie Gresge, junior defender #12

4-10-2013

First of all, congratulations to the Huntley team for advancing forward in the Pepsi Showdown. We admire your brute competitiveness. In a match characterized by possession and physicality, we learned that a physical, hard-working team is just as hard to beat as a skilled one. After coming off a 1-0 deficit in the first half, junior center defender Catherine King laid a perfectly-aimed shot straight into Huntley's net from around midfield. After a lot of back-and-forth possession, Huntley scored after a foul outside of our box, clinching the win.

This loss opened our eyes to how we can improve as a team, and we consider it an important stepping stone in terms of soul-searching and fanning the competitive fire that has already been lit within us. While we feel the disappointment and frustration that comes with falling short of what we feel is incredibly high potential, we also feel that defeats define a team as much as wins do. And we have chosen to rise to the challenge and not back down.

Going forward in the consolation bracket of the Pepsi Showdown as well as the rest of the season, we realize that talent alone will not carry us to the success that we dream of and work for; hard work, team work, and the desire to win are equally necessary for success as

individuals and as a team. We feel more driven than ever to celebrate our wins, learn from our losses, and move forward with a sense of purpose to prove that we have the talent, desire and attitude that it takes to avenge this loss and make our dreams a reality.

4-7-2013

The lion ladies kicked off the Pepsi Showdown with what we felt was our best soccer yet. Going into the wind the first half, our goal was to possess- and with a host of returning players on the field, especially with help from Indiana University-bound senior midfielder Ari Kowalski, we managed to hold Jacobs to a draw. The second half brought wind and luck on our side, as junior forward Emily Lange dribbled and faked the Jacobs keeper out on a far-post goal that put the momentum and scoreboard in our favor. Seconds later, sophomore forward Margaret Lynch mirrored the preceding goal's swiftness and style, putting us up 2-0. With talented players from all grade levels, and despite the fact that go-to senior midfielder Abby Pasquinelli is out with a foot injury, we managed to continue to combine and connect throughout the rest of the game.

Going into Tuesday's game against Huntley, our goal is to continue the momentum created in Olympic Park on Saturday. As we continue to grow together as a team on and off the field, we wish to use the Pepsi Showdown to showcase the talent that we hope will translate to a deep run in the state tournament later this spring.

Maine South

Christina Kiotis, #22, center back and captain

4-6-2013

This morning was our first Pepsi game against Huntley. It did not go as well as we had hoped in the result that we lost 1-0, but if the game was won by the amount of effort a team puts forth, Maine South would have went home with a win. We played hard for the entire game and really set an aggressive and motivated tone for the rest of our season. We achieved some of the goals that we had set for ourselves this week, which was awesome, but we just couldn't seem to get the ball in the back of the net. On defense we played a lot more direct, playing the ball to the corners and to our forwards feet when available, and also did a lot better shifting on the field depending on where the play was. Communication was key in the back when Huntley put two forwards up top; the outside defenders and our stopper had to talk to each other to decide who should be on who. In the midfield, our defensive midfielders really stepped up their game in the first half by winning a lot of balls out of the air and bringing it down to create some essential plays. Our attacking midfielders did a good job splitting the defense by sending through balls to our forwards and involving our outside defenders in the attack when possible. You could see a lot of effort being put forth from all the midfielders with our countless slide tackles and going hard on 50/50's. Up top, our forwards did a good job finding the corners on a lot of plays during the second half, forcing a defender to follow and create space in the box. Our forwards have natural chemistry and worked hard every minute they were on the field, not getting much time for a sub. As a team, we did a much better job of putting the, in our eyes, lucky goals and bad calls behind us and continued playing the full 90 minutes with great intensity. It's unfortunate and disappointing that this game doesn't go in our book as a "W", but his game showed how

hard Maine South is working and hopefully sets a high standard for ourselves. We will continue practicing on Monday and hopefully get the result we have been working for at our game on Tuesday.

4-2-2013

This year for Pepsi us players here at Maine South are ready to come perform our best and make it very far in the tournament. This team has incredible chemistry and has high expectations for Pepsi and the rest of the season. As a team we are excited to play and start the tournament off on a good note this Saturday. We work hard as a team and are a very competitive and high spirited group of girls, hopefully we get the results we have been working for.

Marist

Nina Kadich

4-1-2013

The Marist girls' soccer team makes a point of writing down our team goals every year so that they have something to work towards together as a team. It is a way for us to rate our progress and view our growth over the period of one season together. We have set a good foundation this year and have set goals that will unveil golden opportunities for us when reached. So far, we have been working extremely hard as a team. We challenge each other in practice and are family on and off of the field. Our season has gotten off to a rough start with a record of 1-3. Although some people may look down on this, we see nothing but opportunities and possibilities. We have been playing together for a good amount of games now and have been focusing on becoming more and more of a team each day and that is why we will be a challenge to every team in this tournament. There is no doubt that we will be coming out stronger and harder than we have ever before. The bar is only set higher for us with every game. I expect us to do well and make it far in this tournament. We are very excited and anxious about what this tournament will bring to us as a team and a family.

Metea Valley

Megan Geldernick

4-1-2013

This year Metea Valley's girls' soccer team is ready to go all the way. Our team unity started stronger than ever, which adds to our high team chemistry and awareness when playing with each other. We have the ability to play a variety of formations, with a roster of athletes that can be thrown into any position. We are playing well although we would have wanted an earlier start to the season. Our style is a passing and smart soccer system not a dump and chase system. We look to get our mids to the end line and push the ball forward. Our coach tells us, when we don't have the ball that 11 people are on defense and when we have the ball 11 people are on offense. You can expect us to put pressure on the opposing team and work hard on every play. We don't want anything handed to us; we are working hard to send a message

that we are the team to beat. We have had a few years to get our feet wet in the one of the most impressive areas for girls' soccer, now it is our turn to be at the top of that list. We are excited and ready to play tough competition in the Pepsi Showdown. We know we are going to be tested every game so we are looking forward to improving and scoring some goals.

Morton

Liliana Martinez

4-14-2013

On Saturday, April 13th we played our fourth and final game of the 2013 Girls Pepsi Showdown. We would have loved to come out strong with a blowout win against Joliet Catholic, but we ended up settling with a 1-1 tie. Morton came out on top in the first half with Senior Briana Keska scoring the first goal of the match off a free kick. Although being able to hold off Joliet Catholic for the remainder of the first half, Joliet Catholic battled through and tied the game on a corner kick in the second half.

We can't hang our heads coming out of the Pepsi Showdown with a record of 1-1-2 after our first year. A record in nothing to cry about or get mad over; what really matters is what kind of effort was put in. What's the point of hanging your head after giving 100% for 80 minutes of game time and getting beat by a better team? What's not acceptable is giving in halfway through a soccer game-- not giving 100%-- and allowing yourselves to get beat.

Now that it's all over and we have gone through our first Pepsi Showdown tournament, we can say we came out with one major lesson; you either hustle and win or get out-hustled and lose. Being placed in a low pool of teams, we did not show our full potential. There were moments when we were obviously the stronger teams, but playing in random spurts of effort won't bring in goals. Leaving things up to chance doesn't result in goals. I have to give it to our opponents; their effort was evident. Being Morton's goalkeeper, I noticed how many times I had to quickly move from the path of one of their girls as they ran full speed in hopes of a rebound or a mistake my me. And it's little things like those that make all the difference. Whether a team is down a goal, up a goal, or if there's a 5-goal difference, the intensity has to be there.

It was a delightful experience to play in the Pepsi Showdown. The feeling of being placed in such a big competition with so many other teams was exhilarating. As a senior, I can only give my support to all the younger players for the Mustangs and hope I can return as a fan next year to see them advance farther than we were able to this year. It's a bittersweet feeling, but we can only look forward from this point on. There's still conference to play for so our focus has to shift. It was a really great experience to be a part of the Pepsi Showdown, one that I'm very grateful to have had before graduating.

4-12-2013

On Thursday, April 11th, the Morton Mustangs headed out to Joliet West high school to play their third game of the Pepsi Showdown. Hoping for and in need of a win, our lack of constant intensity throughout the 80 minutes of playtime resulted in a disappointing 2-1 loss. Although we

scored first, we were unable to hold onto our lead as Joliet West tied on a corner kick and later scored off a free kick.

Our biggest mistake is making ourselves vulnerable as a team when we play in little spurts of intensity. Our opponent was able to jump all over us when we stooped down into a deep valley, and we were unable to score when our intensity was at a peak. All of these games are winnable games, and not coming away with the win is frustrating and upsetting. Of course, everyone should be able

to recognize their mistakes and come into practice the next day with the mindset of improving as a soccer player and leaving those mistakes in the past. Today is a new day and tomorrow we play a new game; in the space between these two things, our intent is to focus our minds on correcting our faults and coming out stronger for Saturday.

4-10-2013

The Morton Mustangs girls soccer team played our second game of the Pepsi Showdown on Tuesday, April 9th against Payton on our home field. Getting off to a slow start as we allowed a preventable goal within the first couple minutes of game time, the match turned into a battle of catch up for Morton. After we were able to wake up and get our heads back in the game and move past the thought of the goal and the mistakes leading to it, Briana Keska tied things up at one. This was the score at half time as each team tried to warm up a bit before going back on the field for another 40 minutes in unexpectedly cold temperatures.

To start off the second half, we felt the need to regain control of the game and come off string and hard with a goal to pull us ahead of our opponent. Alexis Mondragon, one of our forwards, was able to do just that as her goal made the score 2-1 in favor of the Mustangs. I feel one of the greatest joys of soccer is how one goal, one perfect pass, one run made, one split-second decision can completely change the game around. Right as we were feeling confident enough to be able to score at least one more goal to secure a win, a handball call was made off a Payton corner kick. At this point it was up to me to attempt a penalty save. Unfortunately for Morton, Payton was able to place the ball in my left edge of the net to once again even the score at 2 apiece. Whereas both teams fought hard to try and give their team a game-winning goal, both teams were also able to defend and not allow any more goals.

Of course, as a team who's faced many frustrations on the field with what seems like an inability to win, we weren't completely thrilled with a tie, but we'll take a tie over a loss any day. With this, I believe we are still in the running to be first place in our bracket, which is definitely a goal we had in mind coming into this tournament. After the game, both our coach and the Payton coach had a talk with us, in which we both agreed one of greater things about the Pepsi Showdown is the exposure to so much talent in one place. Both teams hope to be placed in higher brackets in upcoming years, working towards improving the teams. I think what we take with us from the Pepsi Showdown is the experience of facing teams we wouldn't face otherwise in our schedules. It gives us the opportunity to play against girls at about our level and come away with a sense of what we need to improve on.

4-9-2013

Whereas this is a journey our boys' varsity soccer team has taken many times, the girls' varsity soccer team for Morton High School is a newcomer to the Pepsi Showdown. On Saturday, April 6, the Mustangs excitedly took the field, wearing our new white home jerseys in our first match of this tournament against Marian Catholic. The excitement for this game had been apparent since days before in our practices and in the early morning as everyone chatted excitedly on the bus ride there. The Pepsi Showdown is an exciting event for all us soccer fanatics at Morton High School. Our boys' team has repeatedly made appearances in the Pepsi Showdown final, giving us all the more motivation to leave a mark of our own in our first year participating. Coming off a rough start to our season, it was a really great experience to come out victorious 4-0 in our first match.

As a team, we won't be satisfied with just this one win. Overcoming the challenge of having to play through the insane wind on Saturday-- which actually caused some humor on the field as our goalkeeper had to stop the goalpost from rolling onto midfield in the middle of the first half—and managing to keep our opponent goal-less working against the wind in the second half really heightened our spirits on working to improve throughout this tournament and be able to celebrate victory after victory from here forth. Briana Keska and Nelly Romero, two seniors combined to score the most goals we've managed in one match so far. I can honestly say the coaches and team players alike for Morton have their sights set high for this tournament. Of course the excitement we displayed being silly on the red carpet, taking silly pictures and posing, will also be transformed into energy fueling our bodies to go all out and play hard for 80 minutes for a win.

Seeing so many different teams all gathered in one beautiful soccer complex, and being surrounded in an atmosphere with all things soccer was a refreshing experience to us all. The bright, wide eyes and excited laughter as our bus entered the parking lot and we all pointed out the giant soccer ball clearly displays the joy we all feel as a team to be able to finally take part in the Pepsi Showdown. This tournament opens up a brand new door for the Morton Mustangs Girls Soccer team that we hope will lead to improvement and a greater variety in opponents faced. Through this, we hope to grow and learn, expanding out horizons, while at the same, having fun. I must say, we're all very pumped for the continuation of this tournament, with our next match being on Tuesday, at our home soccer field in Berwyn. Go Mustangs!

New Trier

Nora Mabie

4-2-2013

New Trier is in it to win it. Pepsi Showdown is the biggest High School tournament in the country, and we have our sights set on Toyota Park! We look forward to the Showdown every season. We are retuning a solid group of veteran players who come to play and a competitive group of newcomers who are fired up! Last year, our power forward, 6 foot 1 inch, Maddie Mulford fired a shot off the crossbar that some say bent the bar. Word is that this year, the bar

will be broken! On a serious note, we are all really excited because the competition will be tough. We can't wait to get on the field and hope to play well. See you Saturday.

Oak Park River Forest

Meredith Blatner

4-12-2013

Back at our home field the Huskies faced St. Ignatius. The field conditions were wet and slippery. The game was very physical and fast. We were not quite playing in our usual manner, there was a lot of "kick ball" play that managed to force our team out of formation. Despite that, we fought hard to defend the opposition. Erin McCormack and Chole Boensch, both center backs, really shined in the game making great defensive plays. We had our opportunities offensively, but could not manage to finish in Ignatius's final third. Our through balls gave us scoring opportunities but our finishing fell short. The toughly fought game ended in a 0-0 tie.

4-9-2013

Stepping onto our home turf felt good for the second game of the Showdown after recovering from a harsh loss. The game against Oswego was very even. Our defensive line fought hard to keep the ball out of the box and our midfielders challenged hard in the air. The last minutes ticked away as the game stood still at a 0-0 tie. In the last seconds of the game Olivia O'Sullivan cleared the ball out of the Huskies half, which made it possible for Tess Trinka to make contact with the ball and control it. With 38.9 seconds remaining Tess controlled the ball and flew by the last defender and then faced the goalie 1v1. Remaining calm and composed as she approached the goal, Tess placed the ball into the left corner of the goal.

4-6-2013

Oak Park started off with a tough loss to Wheaton South. The Huskies came out strong for the start of the Pepsi Tournament, scoring the first goal of the game. Our momentum was strong following Olivia O'Sullivan's goal but the level of our play dropped greatly when Lauren Wilkes, a key center mid, limped off the field with a badly sprained ankle. From there the team was unable to regain the rhythm that we started out with and lost control of the game. We suffered a 5-1 loss to start the tournament.

4-2-2013

With a team full of skilled, dedicated and enthusiastic players the OPRFHS girls varsity soccer team is excited to bring to the field what we have worked hard to achieve so far this season. This year our team is made up of a combination of returning varsity players and talented players that been with our soccer program who joined varsity this year. We have come together in a short time to form a tightly knit team that has great chemistry on the field. Our team has a lot of talent and desire to succeed but the one characteristic that really defines our team is how close a relationship all the players have with each other on and off the field. Those personal relationships we have formed have added to the success we have had on the field. Although the

season started off a little rougher than expected, with the insightful input and hard work from our coaches and the cooperation and strong work ethic of our players we persevered and have fought back to achieve a 5-1 record through the first six games of our season. As our coaches have told us, there is not just a single player on our team that we depend on to succeed. Our success depends on everyone giving 100% not just in games but in practices as well. The best part about our team is that everyone has their role to play and contributes all of their energy and talent to make the team succeed, which has led to our winning record. Our standards are always high and we strive to put our best effort on the field each game. We are looking forward to playing teams we would not play in a typical season and we will strive to accomplish our very best.

Plainfield Central

Sami Jensen

4-10-2013

In the tournament so far we have been sort of struggling. We are trying to get into a rhythm and we can't seem to find it. Although we didn't end up winning the game against St. Ignatius I believe it was the best game we have played this season. Everyone was connecting well on the team; we possessed the ball majority of the game and we kept good composure on the field. Our goalie ended up getting injured and we had to put in our backup goalie. It didn't set us back at all, we came out harder after that and were determined to dominate. Unfortunately our team is struggling with getting into the attack and scoring. So we ended up with a loss but it was a learning experience for all us. I can't choose one player that really stood out because everyone had an extremely good game. We have a lot of talent on the team this year I hope that we can get past this and play the game we know we can. We just need to stay positive and focus on scoring. We are excited to keep playing in the tournament and showcase our talents. It is an amazing opportunity for players to get their name out there to college coaches. I love playing in this tournament because it's not only fun but its rewarding too.

Plainfield East

Ashley Rowden, Karissa Hahn, and Bri Bernholdt

4-11-2013

Varsity bengals had a great game against Sycamore Spartans, Coming out with a 3-2 victory. we worked out of the back and we're able to produce our first goal coming from a 2-0 deficit. We worked hard to get the ball to the outsides and work the ball up field. Defense worked hard against sycamores efforts. We look forward to finishing out the tournament on a positive note for this upcoming Saturday.

4-8-2013

We started off the game well and played a strong first half. As a team we defended and got balls going up. Loyola was very good at moving the ball around us and that is something that we as a team are going to be working on in practice. Our second half was a little rough. We came out

and started second half well but a few injuries occurred which hindered our teams performance. Another thing we will work on as a team is playing the full 80 minutes of the game so that we can be successful. All and all the game was a learning experience and playing such a highly ranked team was to our advantage to see what we need to work on.

Karissa Hahn

3-31-2013

This will be the second time Plainfield East will be competing in the Pepsi showdown at the varsity level. We are excited to be back playing with such high competition and have high expectations for not only the showdown but for our entire season. We as a team have been working very hard to get where we are at, coming off our first regional title. we would only like to build upon that. We are a developing team, learning how to connect and it is going well. We have Three freshman that are able to finish the ball well and are a great addition to the team. We Also have four returning seniors to anchor leadership and a core of underclassmen to extend the traditions in years to come.

Plainfield North

Nikki Auble, #13

4-23-2013

Although it was exciting to play at Toyota Park for the championship game, it was heartbreaking to suffer the loss. Buffalo Grove is a solid, talented team who worked extremely hard to earn this, and we would like to congratulate them on winning the tournament! During the game, Ashley Handwork scored early off a pass from her sister, Heather, to give us the lead. Mid-second half our opponents scored to tie it up and put us into overtime and then penalty kicks, where Buffalo Grove ultimately won. It was a well-fought game the entire 100+ minutes, and it was extremely disappointing for it to end like that for us. However, we plan to keep our heads up, work our hardest, and fix the things that need to be fixed. We are looking ahead at our upcoming games now. Congrats Buffalo Grove!

Go Tigers!

Hard-Smart-Together

4-14-2013

Yesterday was a big win for us! This is the first year Plainfield North will play for the championship of the Pepsi Tournament, and we are so excited! Two years ago we were picked in the wild card raffle to be one of two teams to play at Toyota Park, but this year will be so much different since it is actually for the title! York played a great, high-pressure game for all 80 minutes, but fortunately for us we were able to win 2-0 with goals by Ashley Handwork and Shayna Dheel. One of the things that helped us in this game was finally adjusting to the wind and connecting our passes more. We know we are going to have play our absolute best in the next game, because it is definitely going to be a challenging one! We are focusing on playing

the game we know how to play and if we play to our advantages, hopefully we can come out with the win! We would also like to wish Buffalo Grove Good Luck!

Go Tigers!
Hard-Smart-Together

4-12-2013

Often, when a team does not play it's best for all 80 minutes, it is due to the quality of the opponent. This was definitely the case last night! Thankfully, we were able to come away with the 2-1 win against Huntley. We would like to compliment them on their hard work and persistence throughout the entire game, making it difficult for us to take advantage of our strengths, such as their solid defense in the back taking away chances for us. We went up 1-0 on a free kick by Brooke Polonus early in the game, and went into halftime with that score. Huntley came out harder than us in the beginning of the second half and tied it 1-1. Fortunately we were able to keep our composure after they scored and found the back of the net one more time later in the game. Ashley Handwork used her incredible speed to beat the defenders and slid it past the goalie into the net. Now we are looking forward to playing in the semifinals on Saturday against York. We are focusing on coming out and playing our game like we know we can, because we know it is going to be a tough game against the team who knocked the number one seed (Loyola) out of the tournament. Good luck to all of the other semi finalists!

Go Tigers!
Hard-Smart-Together

4-11-2013

Our Tuesday night game was crazy! We would like to congratulate a very tough, tireless and extremely skilled Hersey team. Coming off a Double OT game the night before, they battled every second of the way, through two MORE overtimes and right down to the very last PK. Fortunately for us, we also battled and were able to pull off the win. For the second game in a row, the wind was a major factor. While we created a ton of chances at close range, we had some tough luck around the goal and weren't able to put one in. On top of that, Hersey's solid back line was very effective at clearing the ball before other chances became dangerous. However, in the end, it was a great team win. The offense and midfield did an awesome job of controlling possession and creating scoring opportunities while our defense and keeper allowed very few chances and started some great opportunities from the back. All of these contributions helped us earn our 8th shutout in a row! Next we play Huntley, who is another successful program every year. We lost a tough game at home to them two years ago in the Pepsi Tournament, so we're really hoping for a better result this year! Hopefully, the winds will be less than 30 mph! :)

Go Tigers!
Hard-Smart-Together

4-7-2013

It was a great team win for the Tigers yesterday! We won 7-0 over a very talented Warren team, despite the ridiculous wind throughout the whole game. We are extremely excited now for our big game on Tuesday! We know it's going to be tough playing against a very skilled Hersey team for the second time in less than two weeks.

After a heartbreaking loss in the semifinals last year, our goal this year is to make it to Toyota Park and win the 2013 Pepsi tournament!

Go Tigers!

Hard-Smart-Together

P.S. First injury ever in our traditional pasta party "Apple Game" on Friday! Nice work Reysel!)

P.P.S... S/O to the Muscle Milk Truck! (see picture below)

4-1-2013

Our team has done well so far, we are 5-0 and have had some good, competitive wins early in the season, but we realize we have a long season ahead of us with some excellent teams and tournaments on our schedule. Our main goal this year is to advance much further in the state tournament than we have been able to in the past. Even though we lost a talented class of seniors last year (most of them started), we have been able to compensate for the loss of them really well this year. The freshmen and new girls who came in have done an exceptionally good job of connecting with our team quickly and adjusting to our style of play, which has helped a lot with our success.

My personal favorite aspect of our team is how close we are, and our chemistry is visible on and off the field. This ranges from our constant team bonding, especially at pasta parties, to being able to play the ball to any of our teammates on the field and having confidence in them. This is one of the most important factors in our style of play and success. The passing combined with our speed of play makes us dangerous every time we step on the field.

We are all extremely excited for the upcoming Pepsi Showdown because it is always a well run tournament with great competition from all areas of Chicago. Every year we look forward to playing teams that we do not usually get to play in regular season games. We would also like to wish all of the other teams in the tournament Good Luck!

Go Tigers!

Hard-Smart-Together

St. Ignatius

Emma Brown

4-11-2013

The Wolfpack tied against OPRF in a hard fought game. The Wolfpack dominated the game having twice as many shots on goal as their opponent. The Wolfpack was unable to capitalize

on their free kicks they earned in this very physical game. The OPRF goalie was able to stop the ball from ever meeting the back of the net. The final score was 0-0. The Wolfpack defensive line did a phenomenal job of keeping OPRF out of the defensive end. Junior Ginny played exceptionally well. She was able to shut down all incoming plays. She literally left her blood, sweat, and teeth on the field.

4-9-2013

The Wolfpack is back on top with their win against Lockport Central 1-0. After a last minute game change, the Wolfpack was able to put one away in the first half. Sophomore Jill was able to score off a penalty kick after being tackled in the box. Throughout the game, the team was able to communicate and pass with determination. The team was able to control the middle of the field most of the game and get the ball to the outside mid-fields. The team needed this win after a recent slump in their season. This game marks the beginning of a refined Wolfpack. The team is excited to face OPRF on Thursday.

4-2-2013

The Wolfpack is looking forward to their first game of the Pepsi Showdown. The team has bonded during the off-season to become a tight knit group of friends. Most of the team has been playing together for over 2 years. We are a strong team that has overcome a lot in the previous months and can't wait to show off our skills during the coming week. We came out strong at the beginning of our season and cannot wait to progress. This week we are very mindful of the talent we are facing, but we guarantee we will put up a tough fight for the full 80 minutes of each game. The key to our success is the trust developed within our team and the being able to transition across the field. We operate as one unit and have an awesome ability of communication. We are very excited to compete in the Pepsi Showdown. We are looking forward to face teams in the Chicago area that we usually aren't scheduled to play. This tournament is a great opportunity to expand our playing abilities against talented teams.

Stevenson

Morgan Meyer

4-15-2013

Saturday afternoon in our game against Jacobs High School we felt that we got cheated many goals. First half we had countless chances and shots on goals and the ball was in their half the majority of the time. The half ended 0-0. The second half we finally were able put one in the back of the net. Jenna crossed it over to Blake and she chipped it to the far post. Jacobs also scored during the half from a dead ball just outside the 18 with just a few minutes until the end of the game.

4-13-2013

In our game against Deerfield on Friday night, we had a great showing lead by one of our key players Jenna Weiner. She had one goal and three assists out of our six goals in total. To get the ball rolling, Haley Greene scored an amazing goal that soared over the goalie's head into

the net above. Deerfield then promptly scored in response, but that served only to fire us up. We retaliated with Annie Geocaris scoring an amazing header into the far post corner off of Jenna Weiner's corner. Then Jenna scored herself off of a thirty yard free kick. Next, Jenna struck a free kick to Annie Geocaris, again, who had a lovely finish into the back of the net. Furthermore, Jenna had another cross off across the goal and over the goalie to Carolyn Briggs, who finished with respectable composure. To round off the six goals, Elise Tokars hit a beautiful corner and found Lily Zhang's awaiting head to be redirected to the back of the net, yet again. All in all, we all pulled together to conceive only one goal and to score six.

Annie Geocaris

4-11-2013

Our second game was played against Hinsdale South. We were lucky to have had the home field advantage, so we were definitely ready to play. The final score was 1-0 Stevenson. We scored early on; being a far shot made by Jenna Weiner, and assisted by Haley Green. Stevenson had more scoring opportunities and did a great job keeping the ball on Hinsdale's half for a while. Since the game was as close as it was, there were a couple of times in the second half where Hinsdale came close to tying it up. Fortunately, our team was able to close the game leading by 1. Overall, we are happy to have redeemed ourselves from our last loss and look forward to our next game against Deerfield. Keep it up Pats!

Jenna Weiner #27

4-9-2013

Having known we were playing Fenwick first round in the tournament, we knew we were in for a good match up. Our team was ready for the challenge, yet we were still not prepared for such a loss. After a well fought out battle, the final score was 3-2. Stevenson started out with the wind advantage, and scored 2 goals. The first goal involved Blake Klinsky finishing on a corner kick from Jenna Weiner. Following her goal, Jenna Weiner scored from a free kick making the score 2-0. We were ready for Fenwick to come out strong in the second half. They in return scored two goals, the first being a penalty kick. The game was then tied 2-2 and called for overtime with Golden Goal. Minutes into overtime, Fenwick scored on a corner kick and the game ended at an instant. Although saddened, we are happy to have played such a talented team. We look forward to our next 3 games in the Pepsi Showdown Tournament and hope to finish with a winning record. GO PATS!

3-31-2013

Having the opportunity to play in such a prestigious tournament like the Pepsi Showdown is such a great honor for us. The Pepsi Showdown will bring us a great deal of challenges with talented teams from all over the area. It will be exciting for us to play teams that we wouldn't normally play during the regular season. The weather thus far has left us in disappointment, only being able to get two games under our cleats. Both games we played were in surreal conditions, a vision of white snowflakes and the sound of snow blowers in the midst of the chilly air. I guess this is what Chicago weather is all about. Despite Mother Nature, we are eager for

some nice weather along with great competition in these upcoming weeks of the Pepsi Showdown. We have a lot of young players joining the team this year, including four freshmen. They have a lot to bring to the field for us, and we are very excited about that this year. Along with some rookies, there are many veterans joining us from last year. Our upperclassmen have been playing with each other for a few years now, creating a very established and solid squad.

University High

Siobhan O'Muircheartaigh & Liana Manuel

4-10-2013

This past Saturday's game against Wheaton Academy in Schaumburg was our first attempt with a new formation on the field. Emphasizing the midfield, we found that the new set up enabled us to do a better job working together and connecting smart passes. Junior Eleanor Schuttenberg played solid center defense, while sophomore Sylvie Manuel and freshman Leah Umanskiy kept control and smoothly fed the ball through the midfield. Despite the loss we were pleased with our thoughtful overall play.

Tuesday the 9th we played a tough match against Whitney Young. Once again, our formation kept us focused on strong passes through the midfield. Despite an early goal by freshman Anna Funk and strong runs along the flank by senior Laura Anderson, in the end we struggled to get the ball forward and focused on defensive positioning. After a 1-1 tie in regulation and overtime, we moved to a penalty shootout. In spite of successful shots by seniors Audrey Hart and Siobhan O'Muircheartaigh, and brilliant saves by sophomore goalkeeper Kasey Kozak, the penalties concluded with a 2-3 loss. Though we identified a few weak areas, again we were happy overall, as we successfully shut down Whitney Young's strongest players and were unlucky when it came down to penalties.

Throughout the Pepsi Showdown thus far, our whole team has been stepping up to the test of facing challenging opponents; there's not enough room in any blog post to mention all the noteworthy play, but those mentioned did particularly well in their positions. Going into our game on Thursday the 11th, we're looking to continue being aggressive and taking advantage of every player on the field.

Siobhan O'Muircheartaigh

4-1-2013

University High is excited to continue our season at the Pepsi Showdown this year. After missing our first two games due to rough March weather, we've had a few extra days to practice and strengthen our communication and collaboration. Our first game of the season was a good chance to spot areas for improvement, but we were pleased by our team's defensive pressure and general ball possession. We are focusing on working together as a cohesive group rather than playing an individually centered game. Our large roster and the addition of talented new players on Varsity and JV present both opportunities and challenges as we strive to create a united team. With unity in mind, we are working on injury prevention exercises and techniques

so as not to lose players during the physical games ahead. We look forward to watching other teams play during the Pepsi Showdown, as it has always been wonderful exposure to varied styles of play. As we begin the Pepsi Showdown, we're eager to have more playing time and gain experience from facing strong opponents.

Warren

Savannah Slater #8

4-10-2013

On Tuesday's game we played a talented, aggressive team, Wheaton North, and lost 1-3. The Pepsi Showdown gives us the opportunity to play a lot of strong teams that we wouldn't usually play in regular season; Wheaton North was one of them. Although we did not get the results we wanted, we never gave up as a team, we all played hard until the buzzer went off. We will need to continue to build upon our work ethic in our upcoming match against Loyola, another very talented team. Being able to play tough teams shows us how we can improve our individual skills and, more importantly, improve our style of play and working together as a whole. Therefore, we will use these losses as motivation to succeed in our remaining games.

4-8-2013

On the first day of the Pepsi Showdown Tournament we played a very strong team: Plainfield North. Unfortunately, the outcome was not in our favor. We went into this game with nothing to lose as we were the underdogs playing against a fourth seeded team. We used this as motivation to go out and play to the best of our ability. We tried our best to work as a team and pursue as many opportunities we could. We started off playing well in the first half, but unfortunately lost composure on the ball as the half continued. However, half time was a turning point in momentum for us. We told ourselves that we would not quit no matter what the score of the game was. With that, we played a better second half; we were able to create more opportunities and were more composed on the ball. In the end, we lost to a very good team. However, we will continue to keep our heads up and work for better results in the next Pepsi Showdown game.

3-31-2013

This 2013 season, the Warren Township High School Girls' Soccer Program has been given the opportunity for a fresh start after losing twelve seniors in 2012. Rebuilding with so many young players, many of whom have never played together, while attending a massive split campus high school, may prove to be difficult in regards to team bonding. Fortunately our team has overcome the differences. Every player contributes to our team in such a way that our team bond goes incomparable to any other team. When our coach, Ryan McCabe, tells us to "never give up on the girl standing next to you," we have no difficulty in defending each other on and off the field. Our coaches have supported and pushed us to work for the team before anything else, not only creating a more cohesive program, but we have become better leaders off the pitch.

Although we have started the season with a disappointing 0-2-1 record, we use our amazing team connection as motivation to improve our future results. This year's Pepsi Showdown will be an opportunity to improve ourselves from last year and to show other teams how strong we are. We plan to work as a team and take advantage of all opportunities that come our way in order to achieve our goals. You can expect a new start from Warren Soccer this year with a group of girls that work relentlessly for each other with pride and dedication."

Wheaton Warrenville South

Kelly Langlas

4-7-2013

Our team had a good start in the Pepsi Showdown with a 5-1 win over Oak Park! Although we had a slow start, we picked up the pace after being scored on and got some good goals and a victory as a result. Everyone is contributing and this win helped us gain confidence as we start preparing for our game coming up on Tuesday against Buffalo Grove. We are very excited to play Buffalo Grove. We know it will be a challenging game, but we have a positive attitude and are ready to play hard! As we go into this week, we hope to play smart, efficient and work together to get the positive results we want!

3-31-2013

With a mix of experienced varsity players and many young players, our team is trying to find the right balance that will help us be successful this season. Because of weather, we have not been able to play outside much except for one game which resulted in a tough loss to Batavia. However, the loss helped us better understand the types of players we have and the skills each player can contribute to the team. We are still figuring some things out, but with each game we will learn more of how to play together. Each player works hard and our dedication will help us most this season. There is room for improvement, but we have high hopes for the season. We are very excited to play in the Pepsi Showdown because not only will it be a lot of fun, but we will face a lot of talented teams that will provide a good challenge for us. We hope to make it far in the tournament and prove that we are one of the great high school teams in Illinois!

York

Angela Guerino

4-11-2013

Today we played a really good game against Glenbrook South. Going into the game we really knew nothing about our opponent which was a setback because we usually have a heads up on how they play, who to look out for etc. With that said we went into the game not really knowing what to expect, but once again we came out with a win. Glenbrook was a very aggressive team and played strong defense which made it quite difficult for us to score. In the first half we had trouble figuring out how to get the ball passed their defense but after a long talk at half time we figured out what was going to work best. We came out second half with a 1-0 lead and lost our lead when they scored in the beginning of the half. After they scored we all took into account or

talk at half time and got past their defense and scored two more goals. We are so excited that we get to advance to the semi-finals for Pepsi and we all look forward to our game on Saturday!

4-10-2013

This Tuesday we played the number one team in the tourney, Loyola. We ended up winning the game 2-1, but it wasn't easy getting there. The entire first half of the game we were against the wind and going slightly up hill. We purposely chose that side first in order to get through the hard part first. We held them and ended the first half with a score of zero to zero. Once we gained the advantage of the wind we utilized it and gave it our all. We scored our first goal in the first ten or so minutes of the second half and our second goal followed the first by only few minutes. We then held Loyola for about twenty minutes and kept the score 2-0 but within the last few minutes of the game we let up and they scored. Although they did score we didn't let that ruin our confidence and we defended well as a team and came out with the win. We were really excited to advance to the next round in Pepsi and to face another opponent!

4-8-2013

On Saturday we played against Deerfield, and ended up with a win. It was very difficult because of the weather as we presume it was for most teams that played on Saturday, but in the end we were able to put the ball in the net. Tomorrow we are scheduled to play the number one team in the tourney, Loyola. Although we are well aware it is not going to be easy we are determined to go out on the field tomorrow and give it our all. This year we are set on making it far in Pepsi, in the years past we have not gone as far as we would have liked so this year we are making it a goal to do so. We have been mentally prepared for this match for quite a while and we have practiced hard and long, hopefully tomorrow our hard work pays off!

4-2-2013

I'm Angela, I am currently a senior at York High School. This year so far our team has been doing pretty well and we have all learned quickly how to play as a team. We are really excited about playing in the Pepsi showdown this coming up weekend. Coach has been doing a really good job of mentally preparing us for each game we have. Although we are all firm believers that must focus on one game at a time, we have began to think about our Pepsi games this weekend. I can speak for my whole team when I say each time we step on the field we make sure we all give it 100%. For this weekend that is exactly what we plan to do; go out and give it our all!

Whitney Young

Amelia Rockhold-Senior Defender

4-7-2013

The Whitney Young Dolphins are excited to be a part of this year's Pepsi Showdown. With nine returning players, and a few girls out with injuries early in the season, our team will have great competition to play against while working out the kinks. Our first game ended in a 4-2 win against Joliet West. After hitting the woodwork four times in the first half, senior Azia Javier

scored two goals and knocked in a a penalty kick for a hatrick. Mardi Caminer's (junior) run was rewarded when she knocked in our final goal to the far post off of a great switch from returning junior Margaret Zahrah. The focus of the Dolphins this time in the tournament is to keep possession against good competition. So far we have dominated our first game and look forward to keeping the momentum going when we play on Tuesday. Go Dolphins!