Grace LePage works overtime helping others at Cinnaminson

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Posted Sep 4, 2019 at 8:41 PM
Updated Sep 4, 2019 at 8:54 PM

The Pirates senior scored in overtime to give Cinnaminson a 3-2 win over Maple Shade.

MAPLE SHADE — Grace LePage says she enjoys helping people.

And she has the resume to prove it.

As a member of several school clubs, the Cinnaminson High School senior spends a lot of her spare time giving back to the school and the community.

On Wednesday, she helped out the Pirates field hockey team by scoring the deciding goal 50 seconds into overtime to give Cinnaminson a thrilling 4-3 victory over Maple Shade in a Burlington County League Patriot Division showdown.

“It was really nerve-racking because we wanted to get a goal in under a minute (into overtime) because we were all tired,” LePage said. “Abby (McDonald) took the shot and Alexis (Ochman) was at (the goalie’s) pads and I saw it tip around her. I just thought to have a steady stick and push it in.”
It was just the second career goal in LePage's varsity career, but certainly her biggest. The Pirates’ senior midfielder has been a valuable commodity for her ability to move around in the lineup over the years and give the team a strong effort.

“She started out for us a few years back playing defense but she moved to more of a midfield defensive position this year,” said Cinnaminson coach Gina Baysal. “She’s just the nicest sweetest player that will always work hard and focus when you need her to. She’ll never complain and she’ll do whatever you ask her to do.”

She also does some pretty nice things when she’s not asked to. LePage has been volunteering her time since freshman year with a school club called Glamour Gals, which provides ongoing companionship and complimentary beauty makeovers to women living in senior homes. LePage is part of a group of about 40 students that visits Riverview Estates, an assisted living facility in Riverton.

“We go there to paint their fingernails but I like talking to them a lot more,” LePage said. “It’s more just to talk and get to know the elderly community members. It’s a great experience that I really enjoy.”

LePage also spends countless hours on the student council where she serves as the liaison to the Cinnaminson School Board. She also takes part in prom and homecoming committees.

“I spend a lot of time after school,” LePage said with a laugh.

LePage put an end to after-school activities on Wednesday as her goal capped off a wild back-and-forth contest in which Maple Shade led three times, but only for a combined 2:54.

Freshman Riley Carr opened the scoring for the Wildcats with 4:07 left in the first half but Derry Bockius answered just 28 second later to send things even into the break.

Natalie Doman put Shade in front again midway through the second half but Olivia Catalana scored the equalizer 1:13 later. Carr followed with her second of the game at the 10:24 mark and Abby McDonald blasted home the tying goal within the next 73 seconds at the other end.
The Wildcats would score, the Pirates would respond.

“It was a little frustrating and we have to communicate more because our defense was a little lax,” said Maple Shade senior Ally Bimmer, who serves as one of the Wildcats’ captains. “But also on offense, we need to put more goals in.”

Bimmer wasn’t discouraged by the opening day loss. The Wildcats have a strong and speedy team that should compete on a daily basis.

“I expect us to make a good run,” said Bimmer, who had a team-leading 15 goals last season. “We have a strong senior class and we have good leadership.”