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Lady Tigers show seasoned signs, 9-0

03/11/05

Jeff Gable, Rome News-Tribune Sports Writer

The Darlington Lady Tigers may be a young soccer team this spring, but already they are starting to play like seasoned veterans.

With junior Katie Adzemovic scoring three goals and freshman Lauren Mauer controlling the Darlington defense, the Lady Tigers rolled to a 9-0 win over visiting Adairsville in an Area 6-AA/A match on Thursday.

The match got off to an inauspicious start, with Adairsville not arriving until 30 minutes after the scheduled kickoff, due to transportation problems with the team bus.

Once they arrived, the visiting Lady Tigers found the Darlington Lady Tigers ready to pounce.

"I was really pleased with how they played today," Darlington coach Steve Hall said. "That's what I like about this team — everybody contributes, and they are a fun team to watch."

Darlington (4-1, 3-0) jumped on the board in just the fifth minute of play, when Bethany Blevins drilled a low, hard shot into the left corner of the net.

Less than 40 seconds later, Mauer lofted a perfect free kick over the Adairsville goalkeeper's head from 30 yards out to make it 2-0.

Adzemovic scored her first goal in the 20th minute, and Ali Terrell scored three minutes later to make it 4-0.

Nikki Atha notched a goal in the 31st minute off a pass from Adzemovic, and that duo combined again in the 39th minute on a counterattack to give Darlington a 6-0 lead at halftime.

"Lauren is like our quarterback on defense, and Katie kind of leads our offense," Hall said. "When they play well and set things up, everyone else feeds off of that."

Adzemovic scored again just two minutes into the second half, and her final goal came in the 53rd minute on a perfect chip shot from 20 yards out.

Natalie Brock closed out the scoring off a pass from Terrell in the 56th minute.

Blevins, Atha, and Cee Cee Cambron each had an assist in the game.

The match was the second game back for Darlington after the school's spring break, which turned tragic when two students died on a trip to Florida that Hall coordinated.

Goalkeeper Kristin Kountz, the only senior on Darlington's team, said that the entire campus, including the soccer team, is still trying to regain a sense of normalcy.



Adairsville's Carrie Freshour (left) and Darlington's Lauren Mauer battle for the ball Thursday. William T. Martin, Rome News-Tribune.

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"Everybody is trying to move on, trying to get back to a regular schedule," Kountz said. "Coach Hall has been so strong for us. We just want to step up and do well, because he's always believed in us.

"Maybe we can give back to him some of the encouragement that he's always given to us."

Hall said that getting back into soccer has helped him in the healing process.

"Being back at school and around the kids has really helped," he said after the match. "Trying to get back to normal has helped in dealing with it, and the kids have been great."

Darlington hosts LaFayette on Tuesday, while Adairsville travels to Cedartown Saturday.

In other action Thursday:

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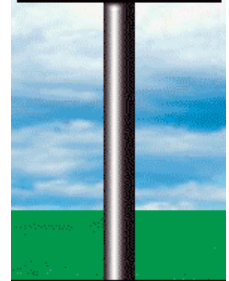
Armuchee 2, Trion 0

Summer Sutton and Stacy Trick had one goal each to lead the Armuchee Lady Indians past Trion in an Area 6-A/AA match.

Ashley Morgan held the shutout in goal for the Indians.

The Lady Indians (4-2-1, 2-1) are at Rockmart Monday.

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