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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lamorinda girls' soccer – positives on the pitch



Tatum Zuber - Acalanes

By Jon Kingdon

Despite having to play outdoors in inclement weather, there were no complaints coming from any of the Lamorinda soccer teams. "With the short season last spring, everyone was looking forward to a normal season, even with the rain and cold," Miramonte head coach Barry McQuain said. "That's girls' soccer."

Acalanes

As the second anniversary of Acalanes winning the Northern California Regional Championship approaches, the Dons look to be in good position to defend that honor after a season where there were no playoffs. With a 6-1 record and having outscored their opponents by a combined 37-5, their main concern might be one of overconfidence.

This is a team with both youth and experience comprised of 15 seniors and juniors and nine sophomores and freshmen. "We have a

really good mix of players," coach Nick Barbarino said. "It reminds me of our team two years ago when we had a similar mix of players."



Addie Bailey, Jacque Peacock, Taylor Mikalis, Nicole Nguyen

Photos Acalanes Boosters

The three captains on the team, Addie Bailey, Tatum Zuber and Chloe Quintella, were freshmen on that championship team along with juniors Jacque Peacock, Camryn Salazar, and Taylor Carlin.

The upperclassmen have utilized their playoff experience to create a winning environment, Barbarino said: "The leadership and composure of this group makes it feel like a team that has been there. They understand the high-pressure situations and how to get through them."

The offense is led by Bailey, Zuber and Natalie Means.

Means was just activated, scoring two goals in her first game, and will be playing for Georgetown next year. Freshmen Taylor Mikalis (5 goals) and Nicole Nguyen and sophomore Ella Thomason are among the girls that have scored at least one goal.

Barbarino has never been afraid to throw freshmen into the mix. "It's like life," Barbarino said. "If you can contribute, it doesn't matter what age or grade you're in. We're going to put the best players on the field. We are really deep this year. The freshmen are learning and improving, and it really helps that the upperclassmen are helping them to acclimate and get up to speed."

The Dons are only giving up 0.66 goals/game. Junior Catherine Judson, starting for her second year, has been very solid in the net along with freshman backup Melisa Adatepe. "Catherine has gotten a lot better with her passing and position and is much more comfortable in the net," Barbarino said. "She is great at reading the ball in the air and has very quick reactions. We're also excited about Melisa's future."

The line protecting Judson is led by Quintella and Peacock. "Chloe and Jacque, our center backs, have both been great all year," Barbarino said.

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