

Girls look for another SCC title

POSTED August 25, 2010

By Jonas Leyrer Journal Sports Writer

NEW ULM - As one might expect in a city with three high schools, New Ulm experiences the occasional crosstown rivalry sports match-ups.

And though a lot of great competition comes with different area schools meeting as opponents, for the New Ulm girls soccer team, the great things start to happen when the schools work on the same team.

The girls soccer team is back for another season and is looking to play better than ever. Coming off a South Central Conference championship and a winning season of 10-6-1 in 2009, the team certainly has built a solid reputation. And though it lost a number of its senior players from last year, the team doesn't believe its as big of a problem as you might think.

"I see a lot of things happening this season that didn't happen last season," coach Jonathan Johnson said. "We had a good team last year. We lost a lot of seniors. We had nine seniors on the varsity squad, but the people picking up and taking their place are equally as skilled and, in some areas, even better.

"Even though our team is young, we have a lot of varsity experience," added freshman Peyton Lewis. "We had a generally older team last year, but we still have the young players who were on it this year."

When prompted about his team's strengths and weaknesses, Johnson was able to quickly say plenty of things that the team did well, but was happy to have some trouble thinking of any areas where the team was weak.

"We have some very good goal tending," Johnson said. "Our attackers are great, we got a strong midfield, our defense is good. All the way around, its going to take a good team to beat us."

As important as individual technical skill is to the game, the coach was quick to say that it is the team-play that really makes things click on field and that it is an added bonus to see it coming from a conglomeration of different schools.

"There are no boundaries between any of them," Johnson said. "They are all friends out here, on and off the field. They play well together, they talk together, they all have a good knowledge of the game. It's just an all-around good bunch of girls playing soccer."

The final piece of the puzzle for a strong team comes with the attitude the players take onto the field. The girls soccer team makes it clear that this is something that they are already excelling at.

"I think this year that we are going to keep improving throughout the season and never say our game is 'good enough,'" senior Erin Reinhart said.

"I think our team has a lot of heart this year," sophomore Kylie Waltermann said. "We have a lot of younger kids; they are all definitely willing to push themselves as hard as they can."

From all accounts, it looks like the New Ulm girls soccer players have the right mix of skill and determination to take the team far. They will be the group to watch this fall; especially if for all the teams scheduled to play against them.



Staff photo by Steve Muscatello
The three captains for the New Ulm girls soccer team this season are Lydia Balge, Angie Serbus, and Erin Reinhart

Eagles win Loyola Tourney

POSTED August 29, 2010 New Ulm Journal

MANKATO - New Ulm won the Mankato Loyola Classic by going 2-0-1 at the tournament Friday and Saturday in girls soccer action.

The Eagles defeated Plainview-Elgin-Millville 6-1 in their first game Saturday. Peyton Lewis scored a goal and Angie Serbus added two goals and an assist. (New Ulm beat Mankato Loyola/Wellcome-Memorial 6-0 in the opening game Friday).

Monica Illikman had a goal and Lydia Balge had two goals with Anna Lindholm adding an assist. Aimee Abrahamson had six saves and Shelby Smith had seven saves for the Eagles.

New Ulm then tied Mankato West 3-3. Serbus scored two more goals and Illikman added another goal. Lewis and Balge each had an assist.

Abrahamson had two saves and Smith had seven saves.

Note: According to Mankato Free Press New Ulm held a 2-0 halftime lead and was outscored 3-1 in the second half.

Note: *The Mankato Free Press reported on the Loyola/LCWM loss to New Ulm in the opening game: "we were asleep yesterday," Loyola/LCWM coach Michael Azarbod said of the 6-0 loss. "They (the players) all knew it too .. I told them the needed to show what they can do—and they did." He was quoted after the Crusaders rebounded with a 2-1 win over Mankato West.*

Eagles stop Trojans

POSTED September 1, 2010 New Ulm Journal

By Jeremy Behnke Journal Sports Editor

NEW ULM - Early in Tuesday's girls soccer game against Worthington, the New Ulm Eagles had several chances to score but were denied by either the post or the Worthington keeper.

But once Angie Serbus scored New Ulm's first goal at the 9:28 mark, it seemed like the Eagles weren't going to have any problems finding the back of the net the rest of the way.

New Ulm stayed unbeaten on the season with a 5-2 win over the Trojans at the Martin Luther College Soccer Complex.

Serbus scored the first two goals of the game, and once that first one went in, New Ulm seemed to get into a goal-scoring rhythm.

"A lot of times it takes some time to get that first goal, but once that first one went in they seemed to come a little more readily," New Ulm coach Jonathan Johnson said. "We had many nice shots, a lot off the crossbar or off the post. The goalie made some really nice stops, we were peppering her like crazy and she earned her pay today."

After Serbus put the Eagles up 1-0, she scored her second goal of the game less than a minute later at the 8:39 mark.



Staff photo by Steve Muscatello
New Ulm's Monica Illikman (18) and Worthington's Raquel Barajas (15) play the ball in front of the Trojans' net during the first half of the Eagles' win Tuesday at Martin Luther College in New Ulm.
For more photos of this event, go to cu.nujournal.com

Cooperative team for New
Ulm High School, Cathed-
ral High School and Min-
nesota Valley Luthran High
School

2010 Co-Op Girls Soccer Season Schedule and Results



Monica Illikman added to the Eagles scoring when she scored just before halftime at the 3:57 mark to give the Eagles a 3-0 advantage heading into halftime.

The first half was a dominant one for New Ulm as the Eagles controlled the ball for a majority of the half.

"Even when the score was still 0-0, our midfield really stepped up today," Johnson said. "The stopper and our outside D's were keeping everything ahead. It was a very good, well-played game."

Worthington got on the board in the second half after Nicole Etnitphong scored at the 28:18 mark. Illikman added her second goal of the game to put the Eagles up 4-1 before New Ulm took a 5-1 lead on Katie Smayling's goal.

Worthington added another goal late in the game. Aimee Abrahamson had three saves in the first half and Shelby Smith had three saves in the second half for the Eagles.