

Girls lacrosse winding down for the year

Alison Fiorini
Staff Reporter

As the school year winds down and things are coming to an end, the varsity girls lacrosse team is kicking it into gear expecting a successful end to their spring season. The girls went into the season with high hopes for the upcoming games. Skill level on the field has improved over the year with practice and commitment. Their games are won by a combination of good performance and intense focus throughout the whole game.

Going into the season the girls were hoping to come out on top against all of their rivals including Howell and Hartland. The team's diverse skill set gives them an advantage over their competitors. Along with physical ability, the team has depth. The team chemistry puts them one step ahead of the other schools in the team dynamic side of the sport.

For Senior Madison Elliott, the sport is more than just a game, it is an accomplishment she can be proud of. After for playing lacrosse all four years at the high school, she is ready to get the season going.

"One of our main goals this year was to play hard and do our best at every game. I think we have accomplished that. Our team works well together so we have great team chemistry and we all play really well together," Elliott said.

The team this year is a pretty new

one so it took some time for the girls to get used to playing together after losing multiple seniors this year. Junior Raquelle Williams is hopeful for the rest of the year.

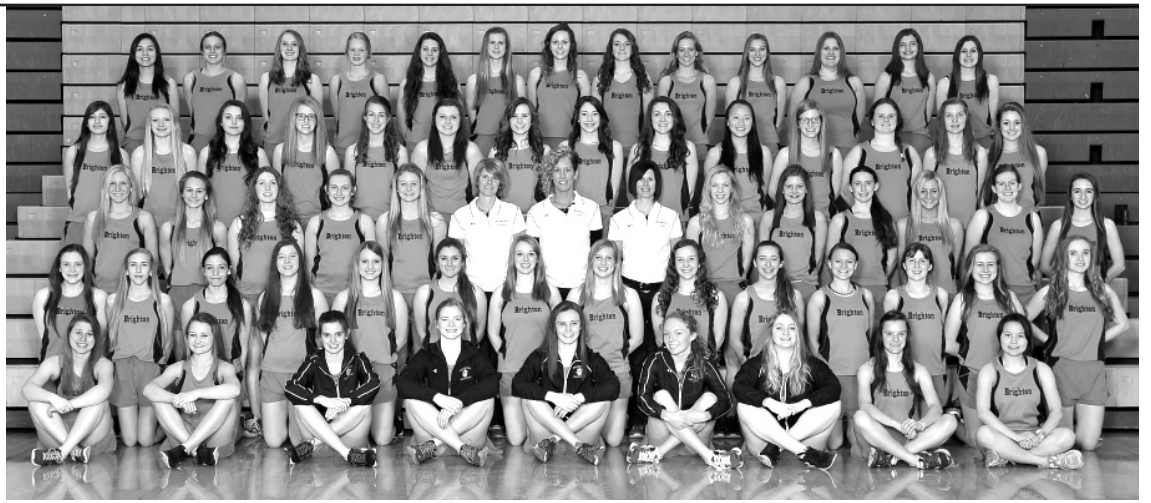
"We prepare for games by practicing hard the night before a game, we run drills and all kinds of plays so we can perfect them for the next day. Since we are a fairly new team and lost a lot of seniors last year, our main goal is to get better as a team this season," Williams said.

Williams has a positive outlook on the season as a whole. A strong athlete takes a well-rounded person with the emotional drive along with physical ability and with that, they will be successful.

"Everyone contributes on what we need to improve on. In the beginning of the season we set goals for the team and individually. We do not blame others. If we do bad, we do bad as a team, but most importantly, we work really well together on and off the field," Williams said.

Even though the practices are limited with game cancellations and rescheduling, during each games the girls aim to improve their skills on and off the field. The girls possess all the positive skills Brighton lacrosse needs in order to yield a successful result and an exceptional record.

As the girls continue to make up games improving their record as they go, the highlights show the improvements and the skill levels of the girls. At this rate, the team for next year is going to be a good one.



2015 girls track and field team.

Photo from Godogs.org

Multiple spring teams prove successful again

Emmerson Marlatt
Staff Reporter

With teams like Girl's Soccer, Track and Field, Boy's Lacrosse, and Baseball all thriving this season, much of the talk around the community of Brighton concerning athletics is centered around this year's Spring Playoffs. While it is not unusual for Brighton to have athletic programs doing well at this time of year, the attitude around the community still seems to reflect a sense of tension and excitement for the upcoming postseason.

"We want to show everyone what we can do and really make a push this year past what we have done in the past," junior Lacrosse player Jake DesRosiers said.

The lacrosse team has only lost a couple of close games this year to good competition such as Catholic Central and Okemos, whom they could possibly be seeing again late in the playoffs as they attempt to

make a run at a state championship.

The emergence of other talented public programs around Brighton are helpful in providing good competition. Some have criticized the team as having a weak schedule this year and in past years, so getting good competition in the regular season as preparation for the playoffs is very important. Every year coaches such as head coach Renn Moon attempt to put more talented teams on the schedule, which can sometimes prove difficult because of the distance between Brighton and appropriate competition.

However, Lacrosse is definitely not the only team looking to make a late season push. This season the girl's soccer team is posting an extremely impressive undefeated record while Varsity Baseball is also making an impressive statement as they face challenging conference opponents like Howell and Hartland. Meanwhile, the track team continues to pile up win after win at their meets.

"We just put up our best work every meet and try not to worry how much attention we get," sophomore Ezekiel Sherry said.

In recent years, the school has been receiving criticisms of not giving equal credit to all the teams who have exceptional seasons, such as the girls ski team, who won states last season.

The girl's varsity soccer team is currently holding an undefeated position. With only three more games of the regular season to go, they would have to lose them all in order to not win their league.

The games they have yet to play are against Grand Blanc, Pinckney, and Milford. The first time they played those teams, they beat each team 2-0, 2-0, and 3-0. So it does seem that the odds are in their favor.

"I truly believe that this team can take us all the way this year. I have thought this in previous years, but this time it feels different," senior Captain Bailey Tuczak said.

Tuczak has been on the Varsity team since her freshman year along with senior, Holly Hermans. In their time of being a part of the Brighton Soccer Program, last year is the farthest that they have gone. They shared their conference win with Hartland last year, and they lost the district finals in after two overtime periods and PK's that went through ten shooters each team.

The girl's soccer team will not be sharing their conference win with Hartland this year. When coming

face to face with their rival, they beat them 4-1, then tied them 1-1.

"Playing Hartland on their home field has and always will be difficult. Somehow it always ends up becoming a dirty game. It seems as if the referees are never in our favor, and Hartland's student section is always filled with awful sports with awful comments to say," senior Clare Ivers said.

Senior Mackenzie Chwalibog has really stepped up this year. With nearly every set piece she has started, has ended up building into a goal whether she scores herself or plays a cross in the box.

On Tuesday, May 12th, the team will be taking on Pinckney to officially win the KLAA West conference. Then starting Thursday, they will begin crossovers and quickly transfer into districts, starting their road to states.

After having Deepak Shivraman as a coach for as long as anyone can remember, Chris Stevanovic took his place this year and he has led the girls in their best season they have had in many years.

"This season has been a great experience for me. The season has been a great start to a new chapter of Brighton soccer. It is an exciting program to be a part of. The future looks bright for all Brighton soccer players. This season has been very successful so far. We will continue to create more success and hopefully win more championships before the season ends," Stevanovic said.

The girls soccer state championships will take place on June 13th. The state championships were won by Northville last year. Brighton hasn't played in the state finals since 2005. They all hope to compete in it this year.

"We don't need to have everyone patting us on the back constantly to get excited and give our best effort," senior J.J. Ellison said.

This proves that not only are this year's athletes talented, but they are also the kind of young adults that makes one want to get behind them because they are in it for all the right reasons. With so many programs doing well it's easy to see why the community is buzzing, but how far can each team make it in their respective playoffs? Many in the area are pulling for Brighton to have a chance at winning the state championships, and the teams are definitely trying to live up to the steep expectations.

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