

## Attacker of the Week: **Kate Strickland**, Souderton Strikers

January 5, 2016



**Club:** Souderton Strikers

**Division:** U-16

**Team:** Red

**Years with Club:** 5

**Tournament:** Spooky Nook, 1/3/16

This week's Attacker of the Week, Kate Strickland, notched 7 goals, 21 shots, and 2 assists in the team's tournament this past weekend.

Strickland was instrumental in her team's success; Coach Kim Dudek noted that "Kate has a good grasp of the game, her movement on the court is stealth and her shot is wicked." Strikers Manager, Michelle Waldspurger, added that "Kate's strength is her offensive play in the circle; she is able to execute many different types of shots. She is talented, coachable, and has developed into an excellent field hockey player because she works hard."

This hard work shines through in her field hockey play at school as well. As a freshman at Christopher Dock, Strickland started on the varsity squad in the fall and scored 11 goals with 8 assists. Strickland holds the all-time scoring record for Penn View Middle School, where she played prior to Dock.

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## Defender of the Week: **AiYi Young**, X-Calibur

January 5, 2016



**Club:** X-Calibur  
**Division:** U-16 and U-19  
**Team:** U-16 Xcalibur Knights, U-19 Xcalibur Jaguars, and Xcalibur JPIL U-16 Select Team  
**Years with Club:** 4  
**Tournaments:** U-16 and U-19 Mystx Tournaments on Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> and U-16 JPIL Games at 422 Sporsplex on Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Standout player AiYi Young is this week's Defender of the Week after impressive performances in multiple games and two

tournaments this weekend.

In her quiet and intense way, Young helped control the tempo of play, start the transition to a potent attack, and support her teammates on the U-16 X-Calibur Knights, who went on to become tournament champs.

The following day, Young played for the X-Calibur U-16 Select team in the Junior Premier League, where she helped her team secure a 4-2 victory over FC United. Later in the day, Young was an integral force in limiting Freedom HKY's attack, holding star forward Margo Lawn (who was previously averaging 4.5 goals per game) to zero goals en route to a 6-1 victory. This U-16 Select team is now 4-0, having allowed only 4 goals while netting 25. Young's contribution as a key anchor on the team's defense has been pivotal in their success.

Off the field, Young is School Council President for Upper Perkiomen Middle School. She is also first chair cello in the school orchestra; a member of the Leo club, a community service group; and an honor roll student with 4.0 GPA.

X-Calibur JPIL Coach, Erik Enters noted that "AiYi's commitment to excellence in all she does is what makes her a talented player on the pitch and a special young woman respected and loved by her teammates."

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## Student-Athlete of the Week: **Caitlin Farkas**, Main Line

January 5, 2016



**Club:** Main Line FHC

**Division:** U16

**Team:** U16 Mayhem Madness

**Years with Club:** 1

**Tournament:** U16 NIT Qualifier at Spooky Nook

Caitlin Farkas, our Student-Athlete of the Week, is stellar on the field, in the classroom, and among her peers. She serves as the captain of U16 Mayhem Madness and has been an integral force for the squad – already making waves in its first year.

“Caitlin is a very strong player on our team; she is very versatile and can play any position she is asked to play,” shared Danica Deckard, Assistant Coach for Main Line Mayhem. “She scores goals as a midfield player and is also a strong defender in the backfield for us. Caitlin is our team captain and creates a positive energy and spark through her play in practices and in games.”

At Merion Mercy Academy, Farkas, a sophomore, carries a 3.65 GPA and has earned Distinguished Honors. She is enrolled in Honors classes in Chemistry, Physiology, Geometry and Spanish 2. Farkas is member of Merion Mercy's Student Council, Aid for Friends, Skiing and Biotech clubs.

Farkas earned the Defense Award on the Merion Mercy JV team this past fall. She was also a swing player for the Golden Bears Varsity team in post-season play; the team secured a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in PIAA AA District One playoffs and advanced to the PIAA AA State Tournament.

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## Team of the WEEK: NXT Field Hockey U10

January 5, 2016



**Club:** NXT

**Division:** U10

**Tournament:** USTC

“NXT U10 went 2 and 2 in their first ever competitive experience,” shared Susie Macciocca, Director NXT Field Hockey. “Coaches, players and parents were thrilled with their effort and quick adjustment to the indoor game. We were particularly excited because our losses were only by 1 goal. We don't have a keeper, so it was the first time in pads for those in goal. It was so fun and

exciting to watch the girls compete and work hard.”

NXT U10 Coach Kate Fay added: “The girls really came together to make it a great day, joining their individual personalities and talents to make one outstanding team. Our first tournament wouldn't have been the same without the aggression, encouragement, humor, optimism, and enthusiasm from the girls.”

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