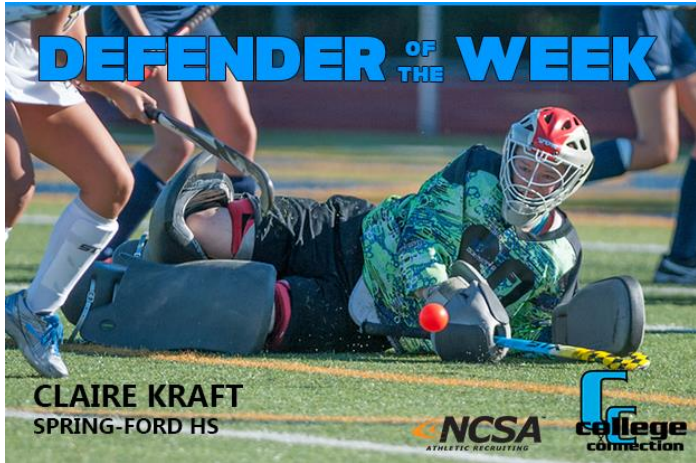


## Claire Kraft: Defender of the Week

for games September 28 – October 4, 2015



Spring-Ford senior goalkeeper, Claire Kraft is our Defender of the Week. In the last two weeks, Kraft has posted a 7-1 record and boasts an overall save percentage of .860 – ranking her in the Top-10 of Phila-area high school goalkeepers. Last week, Kraft posted a shut-out versus Pottsgrove, allowed only one goal in the team’s 5-1 win over Pope John Paul II, and recorded seventeen saves in the team’s fall to the undefeated Unionville Indians (#10 national ranking).

“Claire has truly been the leader of our defensive unit,” shared Jennie Anderson, Spring-Ford Head Coach. “She

finds a way to shut down offensive players by mixing up how she plays them. She is a tremendous goalie and has been one of the main reasons as to why our team has been experiencing success as of late.”

Already this year, the Rams have more than doubled their wins over 2014. Much of the team’s success, Anderson adds, is attributable to Kraft and attacker, Karly Conway, along with a true team effort.

“Claire has made remarkable saves in a number of close games this week that allowed us to play together defensively and preserve the lead under immense pressure from a number of teams,” continued Anderson. “She is a huge part as to why we went 7-1 in the last two weeks.”

Anderson uses the adjectives: leadership, hard-work ethic and dependability to describe her goalkeeper. “Claire truly has done an amazing job for us; words cannot describe what she has meant to our team.”

In addition to her high school team, Kraft is a member of X-Calibur FHC. She is also a shining student, ranking second in her senior class at Spring-Ford (as of close of last year). “Kraft is takes a number of AP classes; she’s a tremendous overall student-athlete,” remarked Anderson.

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## Casey Allen: Student-Athlete of the Week

for games September 28 – October 4, 2015



Conestoga High School senior, Casey Allen is our Student-Athlete of the Week. Allen, a midfielder, is accomplished on and off the field. She carries a 3.94 unweighted GPA and 4.92 weighted GPA and has maintained a rigorous academic schedule throughout high school including a strong mix of AP and Honors level classes. At the end of her junior year, Allen successfully completed seven AP courses and as a senior, is taking the most demanding schedule available. Allen was inducted into the National Honor Society and recognized as a Scholar with Honor.

In addition to playing field hockey year-round for WC Eagles FHC and as a four year varsity starter and team captain at Conestoga High School (now 10-1), Allen finds the time to give back to her community. She is a member of Conestoga's Student Council Senate, FLITE, the Lemon Club, and Student United Way. "Giving back comes naturally and is constant in her world," shared Conestoga Head Coach, Megan Smyth.

"Casey Allen's character is unsurpassed, her love of learning apparent, and her leadership qualities inborn and instinctive," continued Smyth. "She is a natural, nonthreatening leader to whom others gravitate. She is a lifelong athlete and standout field hockey player, not only in our area but the state of PA. Beyond her athletic skills, Casey is the quintessential team player - putting her teammates before herself and always having the team's best interest in mind."

Allen's field hockey honors include: current Philafieldhockey.com Top-10 ranking for assists among 2000+ high school players; 1st Team All Central League, 1st Team All Main Line and 2nd Team All State as a junior; and Honorable Mention All Central League as a sophomore. Allen participates in the USA Field Hockey's Futures Elite Program, is a member of the 2015-2016 U-19 National Indoor Team, and played in the 2013 AAU Junior Olympics. She has committed to Harvard University.

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## Eastern University: Team of the WEEK

for games September 28 – October 4, 2015



Eastern Field Hockey broke into the National Field Hockey Association's (NFHCA) Coaches Poll for Division III teams – ranking 20th among 165 DIII field hockey programs nationwide. It was the Eagles first Top-20 ranking since 2012, when they wrapped up the season with a #15 rank. The Eagles, 8-1 as of October 4, dropped only their first game in late August.

"Being recognized in the Top 20 is an honor," shared Head Coach Camrin Azzarano. "Our focus needs to remain on the field and how we are playing as a team. We have a lot of hard word to do."

Although Azzarano attributes the team's success to not one – but many – factors, two facts are evident: at the close of the week, the Eagles allowed an average of only 1.33 goals per game, ranking them second among Phila-area college teams. Goalkeeper Nicole Berger also ranked #2 with an average save percentage of .818.

"There is no single stand out this year that is leading our team significantly in any stat category," added Azzarano. "Many players have improved their fundamental skills and the team chemistry has been clicking on the field. We are playing with energy and enthusiasm and seeking small successes which have led to bigger ones."

The Eagles' goals are to continue to improve every day and get back into the playoffs this season.

The 2015 Eastern roster includes: Nicole Berger, Andrea Richardson, Megan Bolton (Christopher Dock), Hayley Williams, Macey Talhelm, Shannon Kelliher, Kaitlin Murphy, Danielle Frasca, Lauren Gay, Gina Miller, Jessica Kinzler, Alison Hoag, Hayley Wood, Alyssa Rowe D, Ashley Badders, Kalyn Detweiler and Jennifer O'Neill. The team is assistant coached by: Hilary Manion, Kim Campbell and Recruiting Coordinator, Rachelle Lehman.

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## Jessica McCarthy: Attacker of the Week

for games September 28 – October 4, 2015



Drexel University junior forward, Jessica McCarthy is our Attacker of the Week. McCarthy was the fuel that sparked the Dragon's attack – leading the team to a 3-0 week, including a win in the team's first Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) game of 2015 versus Northeastern (4-3).

Drexel also topped Lafayette, 3-2 and Rider, 4-2.

Despite the Dragon's defense holding their opponents to an average of 2.7 goals per game this season, Drexel has

come up short in scoring enough goals to record the "W". All that changed this week. McCarthy, a Havertown (Haverford HS) native, recorded 6 points on the week including two pivotal goals in the team's win over Northeastern.

"Jessica's intensity in transition is key in creating her goal scoring opportunities. The team has been stepping up their game. Most recently our focus has been on our transitional play," said Denise Zelenak, Drexel Head Coach. "The key for us was creating better opportunities to utilize Jess and our forwards. Her skill and confidence carrying the ball, as well as her strong striking skills make her a big asset to our squad."

In 2014, McCarthy was named to the National Field Hockey Coaches Association All-Region Team and First Team All-CAA. She was also selected by USA Field Hockey to participate in the Young Women's National Championship this past summer.

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