

## Attacker of the Week: **Elizabeth Hitti** (University of Pennsylvania)

for games October 19-25, 2015



University of Pennsylvania's Elizabeth Hitti is our new Attacker of the Week. This senior captain -- a powerful forward and middle -- is ranked 1st in the nation in assists per game (1 pg) among all Division I players. She is also #5 in Points (28) among Ivy team players.

Penn's 12-2 record is due in strong part to Hitti's attacking prowess. Penn Head Coach Colleen Fink said, "Hitti is an exciting player to watch and a nearly impossible player to defend. Her hands and stick work are incredibly fast and this makes her very shifty with the ball."

This past week, Hitti notched 3 assists in Penn's 5-1 victory over Drexel as well as 1 goal and 2 assists in the team's 4-2 win against Ivy League opponent, Yale. This marked Hitti's 16th assist on the year, tying her for Penn's individual season assist record, and 32nd for her career, tying her for the most in school history.

Coach Fink noted that Hitti "sets up her teammates with beautifully played balls and uses her deception to put them in the best possible position. She is our inserter on corners and has played both forward and center-midfield in each game this season."

Hitti will prove a valuable asset as Penn takes on Princeton next week in the final regular season game -- a game that *could* determine the Ivy League Champion if Penn comes out on top.

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## Defenders of the Week:

### Haley Mitchell, Erika Miller and Becca Wallace for games Oct. 19-25, 2015



With so many key performances by goalkeepers this week, we honor three defensive stars: Temple's Haley Mitchell, Villanova's Erika Miller, and Neumann's Becca Wallace.

**Haley Mitchell** was named Big East Defensive Player of the Week after the Owls bounced back strong after a stretch of losses for a spectacular 3-0 week in a five-day period. This highlight included Mitchell's 10 saves to earn a shutout in Temple's 1-0 Big East upset at #12 Old Dominion. Later, Mitchell notched two saves in the Big East win over Georgetown and another two in the 4-1 win over Lafayette.

All in all, Mitchell allowed just one goal in over 205 minutes in the cage; she was not in the cage for the lone goal notched by Lafayette in the final five minutes. The senior goalkeeper, in her first year as a starter, played a critical role in keeping the Owls' Big East Conference playoff berth alive.

Villanova's **Erika Miller** recorded six saves in the Wildcat's only game this week – but it was big one. The Wildcats defeated #12 Old Dominion 2-1 to keep them in the running for a Big East playoff berth. "Erika took control of the defense during the final corners of the game and made sure that the ball didn't go into the cage, which won us the game. She continues to step up for us in the cage and help us win big games for our program," noted Head Coach Joanie Milhouse. Miller was named Big East Freshman of the Week for her performance versus ODU; she was also named to the Big East Honor Roll on August 31st. Miller lands at #9 among Phila-area goalkeepers with a save percentage of .717 on the season to date. ([Click for all Stat Leaders.](#))

Last week, **Becca Wallace**, junior goalkeeper for Neumann University, maintained her #1 rank in Goalkeeper Save Percentage among Phila-area goalkeepers. She has been at the top of the charts for seven consecutive weeks (all but Week 1). Neumann (9-9) went 2-0 last week with wins over CSAC opponents Immaculata and Cedar Crest. Wallace and the Knights await the outcome of another CSAC game today that will determine if they advance to post-season play. Currently, Wallace ranks #13 among all DIII goalies nationwide with a save percentage of .843. She has recorded 182 saves and allowed only 34 goals in regular-season play. Last week, Wallace earned Colonial States Athletic Conference (CSAC) Defender of the Week honors – her second time this season. She was also named to the CSAC Honor Roll once this season.

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## Student-Athlete of the Week: Maddie Gebert (Owen J. Roberts HS)



Senior defender Maddie Gebert is our Student-Athlete of the Week. Gebert has been a force for the #8-ranked Owen J. Roberts Wildcats while maintaining a 4.094 in the classroom and devoting time to lacrosse, for which she was named a High School First Team All-American and Reading Eagle Player of the Year, last year. As a first-year starter on the hockey team, Coach Amy Hoffman noted that Gebert's athleticism and go-get-'em attitude has been a real boost for the team.

"Maddie is an unbelievable addition to any team and we are so fortunate to have her with us. She brings an energy and intensity to the practice and game fields and teammates are forced to follow her lead. Maddie brings that same intensity and focus to her

academics, which is evident through her consistent enrollment in Honors and AP courses throughout her 4 years at the high school. She's a true competitor - she will fight and battle and give everything she has until the final whistle blows."

At OJR, Gebert has taken numerous AP classes including Statistics, Calculus, Government/Politics, Economics, and History. Her Honors classes run the gamut of subjects including English, Biology, and Latin, among others. She has been on the Honor Roll throughout high school and is a member of the National Honor Society and the Letterman's Club. Between her field hockey and lacrosse commitments, Gebert is also a member of her church youth group.

"This year, Maddie has been solid as part of our defensive/midfield unit, as well as our defensive corner unit, as the flyer," continued Hoffman. "Our defensive unit as a whole has allowed only 15 goals all season, and our corner unit has taken 107 corners, with only 7 goals being scored against them. Maddie plays a low-mid position which allows her to be both offensive and defensive."

Gebert will continue her lacrosse career at Temple University in the fall. But for now, this stellar student-athlete is focused on OJR advancing through the District One AAA playoffs.

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## Team of the WEEK: Unionville

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Unionville High School – our Team of the Week -- won the Ches-Mont American League last week and earned the #1 ranking among 56 teams in PIAA District One AAA. The Indians wrapped up regular-season play 18-0 and earned Top-10 spots in seven of the eight statistical categories among all 111 Phila-area high school teams.

“It is very exciting to be the number one ranked team in the playoffs,” said Head Coach Erin Curtis. “The girls have worked hard to earn the ranking.”

Most impressive is the fact that Unionville is so strong on both sides of the field; the Indians have scored an average of 6.29 goals per game and allowed a mere 0.89. The team is deep in talent with much of its powerhouse coming from the sophomore class. Erin Matson ('18) has been an offensive wizard who leads the Philadelphia area with 41 goals and 93 points (as of 10/25). Teammate Annie McDonough ('18) is an able assister with 18 (#5), while Unionville's sophomore goalkeeper, Lizzie Gaebel, has been critical in the team's success allowing an average of .89 goals per game (#2). Curtis notes, however, that “teamwork and determination” have been the key factors in the team's success.

As for the team goals: “We are taking things one game at a time,” added Curtis. “Our first goal was to win the league. Our goal on Friday will be to win in order to advance in District playoffs and earn a spot in the State Tournament.”

The Unionville roster includes: Hannah Close, Claire Donovan, Meghan Berry, Maddie McDonough, Devon Godek (captain), Carly Hewes, Katie Anderson, Kaily Mannello, Mogan Lyons, Erin Matson, Annie McDonough, Kristen Andes, Lauren Newbrough, Elettra McGinnis, Morgan Lyons, Kaley O'Leary, Caroline Fisher, Madison Miles, Kelly Denton (captain), Kait Hartsky, Victoria Latham (captain), Hayley Flores, Lizzie Gaebel, and Kelsey Hildenbrand. Curtis is assisted by Robin Daly.

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