



By Kathleen Harte Simone
 PhilaFieldhockey Founder & Editor

Downingtown West is the PhilaFH Team of the Week after a 3-0 week with 14 goals scored, 2 given up, and an OT victory. The triple wins bumped the Whippets to a 15-0 overall record and 10-0 in the ChesMont League. D’West is one of only 3 Phila-area high school teams – among 113 – who remain undefeated.

The Whippets jump-started the week with a 3-0 conference win on Tuesday versus Kennett. On Thursday, they overpowered Bishop Shanahan 9-1; six players contributed to the offensive stats. Both games were ChesMont victories, ensuring the Whippets’ rein at the top. The following day, the squad won their first of back-to-back overtime games. The 2-1 win came against non-league opponent and InterAc leader, Notre Dame on the Irish’s turf. D’West then built on last week’s winning

streak with a thrilling 2-1 overtime victory over Central League leader, Conestoga earlier this week.

Bolstered by numerous players who have committed to college programs including several DI powerhouses, Downingtown West’s greatest strength may be its depth. Only one player – Romea Riccardo – ranks among the Top-10 on the Phila-area offensive leaderboard. Instead, the squad is deep in talent with 12 players making solid offensive contributions and accumulating stats, and a defense playing with fine-tuned teamwork. Offensively, the Whippets average an astounding 6.07 goals per game (#4) and allow only .62 (#4).

“This season has been extremely exciting for our program as well as the Downingtown community,” said Head Coach Liz Bradley. “It’s so awesome to see every player contributing and the diversity of scoring is phenomenal. We have an array of versatile players who possess great knowledge of the game but our success has come from our depth, unselfishness, and an overall great team effort. We are playing solid team defense, offense is creating scoring opportunities, and the midfield is doing a great job controlling play. Our senior class is providing strong leadership, communication, and an aggressive style of play, which is a great model for our underclassman.”

The Downingtown West Varsity field hockey roster includes: Katie Hoerman, Ciana Riccardo (Michigan State commit), Julianna Smyth, Claudia Jaszczak (Michigan State commit), Sierra Angelini, Tatum Johnson, captain Romea Riccardo (University of North Carolina commit), captain Taylor Orsi (University of Louisville commit), captain Laine Garber, Celna Riccardo (University of North Carolina commit), Kari Schmidt, Anna Miller (Saint Joseph’s University commit), GK Caitlin Coker (Boston University commit / Softball). Head Coach Liz Bradley is assisted by Jeff Riccardo and Tem Mack.



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