



By Kathleen Harte Simone
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Pat Toner, Central Bucks South Head Coach, is the Philafielddhockey Winning Coach of the Week.

Toner led the CB South Titans to a PIAA AAA state tournament berth last week, after a strong District One playoff performance highlighted by two upset victories. Most notable was the #15 seeded CB South's stunner over #2 seed, previously unbeaten and nationally-ranked Methacton Warriors in round two, by a score of 2-1 in overtime. Despite falling District quarterfinals, Toner led her troop to another upset victory over North Penn in the playback series, earning them a ticket to the AAA state tournament.

The Titans hadn't really been on any team's radar for more than a few years until Toner took over last fall and breathed new life into a program that had seen four coaches in four years, posted a 3-14-1 record and scored a mere 14 goals the year before Toner stepped in.

"When our coaching staff took over last year, we tried to stabilize the program and work on fundamentals. In addition, we hoped to get the kids to once again believe in themselves," said Toner. "This season has been one of the most rewarding seasons in my career because although we don't have a lot of players who want to play in college, we do have a singular purpose and a true team. And with that, we have found a way to compete with and beat a lot of teams who most people would not have given us a chance against."

Although relatively new to Central Bucks South, Toner is no newbie to coaching. This fall marked her 40th overall season coaching hockey and lacrosse, 38 of which she spent a Council Rock and as the head coach from 1987-2001. There, Toner led her teams to 13 league championships in field hockey and lacrosse, 3 district championships, a second-place finish in states and a co-champ title with Emmaus one year. She retired from teaching and coaching in 2012 but returned to the sidelines after four years off.

With seasoned experience and an optimistic and infectious bubbly personality, Toner is a popular coach among the Titan field hockey team. Her players appreciate her dedication and the balance she strikes between rigorous workouts and having fun. Toner's praise for her team is never ending. She takes the good with the bad, the losses with the victories, and values the experience above all.



“Entering the district tournament as the 15th seed and finishing 6th in District One is a major step in the right direction in turning CB South's program around,” said Toner. “For me, personally, it’s not so much about hockey as it is about watching kids achieve something they never thought they could.”

Photo: Pat surround by (l to r): Meg Gillard, Ally Fitts and Kasey Dietzel

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