

Hamilton College Field Hockey

Newsletter

February 2011

Thank you for your emails of support and encouragement throughout our special season. I regularly shared your stories and well wishes with the team and let them know that you were cheering them on from a far. I hope that you enjoy this edition of our newsletter.

Best,



Gillian McDonald
Field Hockey Coach
gmcdonal@hamilton.edu
315-859-4760



Check out [Hamilton Field Hockey](#) online for press releases and updates on the team!



COACH'S CORNER

Thank you for your support and for following the field hockey team this past fall. Our season definitely had a different feel to it because for the first time in a very long time, Hamilton was not considered an “underdog”. As a team, we talked about how we were now “the team to beat” and how important it would be for us to play at a consistently high level all season. The team rose to the challenge and we were able to put ourselves in a great position come post-season.

Our semifinal Liberty League Tournament game is one that I will remember forever. Going into the game, we had beaten William Smith three times in a row, all in overtime, and we had been losing by at least two goals at some point in each of those games. To be honest, William Smith was the one team I did not want to play in postseason. Our teams are very similar and on any given day, either team could prevail. Even though we outplayed William Smith in the first half, they were able to get a goal midway through. Our team came out strong in the second half, but the William Smith goalkeeper was having the game of her life and made some fantastic saves. As time was running out, I started to think that eventually our luck was going to run out. It is so hard to beat a good team twice in a season, however, we did not give up and with just over a minute left, Catie Torcivia `12 scored on a corner to tie the game at one and send it to overtime.

Our team loves overtime. One of our best qualities is that we love competition. We have a team filled of young, confident, women who say “give me the ball, get on my back, and let’s win this thing.” The first overtime period came and went. Our goalkeeper, Molly Brooks `14, had some tremendous saves and our defensive unit stayed calm under William Smith pressure. Just a couple of minutes into the second overtime, Colleen Callaghan `11 beat two defenders and broke in one-on-one on the William Smith goalkeeper. She lured the goalie out of her net (as she has done on many, many occasions throughout her career) and deposited the ball into the cage. The sidelines went wild and we headed back to Skidmore for the second consecutive year to try to win our first Liberty League title.

Skidmore had a fantastic team this year. Our Hamilton women competed hard, but it was not enough to bring down the Thoroughbreds as we finished as the runners up again. Skidmore went on to play in the NCAA Final Four which was a great testament to how strong the Liberty League was last fall. We now say goodbye to the Liberty League as we transition into the NESCAC in the fall of 2011, and we hope you will be able to make some our games when we travel to New England.

This year we graduate a lone senior, Colleen Callaghan. Colleen has had a special career at Hamilton. I could go on and on with the records she has broken and the accolades she has received, but that wouldn’t tell you in the least what she has meant to our program. Colleen was a highly recruited high school athlete, but took a chance on me (a very young head coach) and a struggling program. She was my first recruit and has been instrumental in helping me build our team into a nationally ranked program. Colleen and her parents, Kathy and Tom, will be missed next fall. Thank you Colleen, for your dedication to Hamilton field hockey.



The team celebrates Erin McNally's `12 overtime goal against William Smith.



Colleen Callaghan `11 and her parents, Kathy and Tom.

FIELD HOCKEY PLAYER RECOGNIZED

Callaghan caps career with All-America honor

Hamilton College's **Colleen Callaghan '11** (Queensbury, NY/Glens Falls HS) was selected a 2010 Division III All-American by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association.

Callaghan was placed on the second team as one of 48 players on the three All-America teams. She is the third All-American in program history. Erin McNally '12 made the third team in 2009, and Anne Hughes '92 was on the third team in 1991.

Callaghan collected three all-region honors during her career. The forward set program records this year with 19 goals and 49 points. She tied a team record with 11 assists. She shattered the team records for most goals (45), assists (35) and points (125) in a career.

Nationally ranked No. 15 Hamilton (13-3 overall) set a team record for wins in a season with 13 this year. The Continentals finished second in the league standings, qualified for the league championship tournament for the third straight year and advanced to the league title game for the second year in a row.

Courtesy of Jim Taylor; Hamilton Sports Information Director.



Catie Torcivia '12



Marisa Spagnolo '12

2010 Award Winners

Colleen Callaghan '11 (Queensbury, NY): 2nd Team NFHCA All-American, 1st Team NFHCA All Region, 1st Team Liberty League (Unanimous Selection)

Erin McNally '12 (Scotia, NY): 1st Team NFHCA All Region, 1st Team Liberty League (Unanimous Selection)

Catie Torcivia '12 (Rumson, NJ): 2nd Team NFHCA All Region, 2nd Team Liberty League

Marisa Spagnolo '12 (Bryn Mawr, PA): Two-time Liberty League Defensive Performer of the week, Liberty League Honorable Mention.

Nikki Haskins '14 (Quincy, MA): Two-time Liberty League Rookie of the Week, Liberty League Honorable Mention.

Molly Brooks '14 (Florence, MA): Liberty League Honorable Mention.

Liberty League All- Academic nominees:

Erin Bessette-Kirton '12 (Arlington, MA)

Leah Cairns '13 (Andover, MA)

Colleen Callaghan '11 (Queensbury, NY)

Meghan Carter '12 (Washington, DC)

Mary Lancaster '12 (Monkton, MD)

Caitlin Livsey '12 (Austin, TX)

Catie Torcivia '12 (Rumson, NJ)

2011 CAPTAINS

Share their favorite moments



"There really isn't a way to describe what happened on and off the field this year. It is so cliché to say that the success of our season was more than just our record. There was a concerted effort on every team member's behalf to make this season exceptional. The passion we played with on the field was matched only by our chemistry off the field. After games our opponents frequently remarked about the passion and charisma of our team. The skill level of our team, as is the case with other great teams, was never questioned, but our attitude and sportsmanship were singled out as exceptional and that defined us. Our team is a collection of remarkable young women; young women who not only play field hockey well, but love playing field hockey together".

Mary Lancaster `12 (Monkton, MD)
Russian Studies Major



"I am so proud of our team. It is an honor to be able to take the field with my best friends every day. Everyone contributes something unique and special to this team. The team's dynamics are deeply rooted in the life-lasting friendships we have created among ourselves.

Sarah Flisnik `12 (Marcy, NY)
Economics Major



"This season has definitely been the best both on and off the field. In the three years that I have been a member of this team, we have never had so much overall success. We continue to improve as a team and re-write the record books. Our team has such a strong connection, every day we stepped onto the turf ready to work and ready to have fun. I cannot wait for my senior season but it will be difficult to leave all the great friends who are now like family".

Erin McNally `12 (Scotia, NY)
Biology Major
Latin Minor



Some favorite moments from 2010

Marisa Spagnolo `12



“My favorite memory from the 2010 season was Marisa Spagnolo’s first goal EVER! It could not have been a more perfect goal: a flawless corner, the tying goal against William Smith, and an invigorating celebration (that is still going on). Seeing Marisa’s face after she scored will forever be engraved in my mind.”

-- Sarah Flisnik `12

Molly Brooks `14 makes a breakaway save in overtime against William Smith while Marisa Spagnolo `12 (#24) rushes back into the play.

Check out a [video](#) of the save.



Special thanks to Doug Haskins, parent of Nikki Haskins '14, for his beautiful pictures. Check out [Doug's website](#) for more.



Nikki Haskin '14, Mary Lancaster '12 and Hannah Bacon '14 staying warm during a night practice.

Erin McNally '12, Erin Bessette-Kirton '12, Colleen Callaghan '11 and Caitlin Livsey '12 get into the holiday spirit.



Madison Molho '14, Hannah Bacon '14, Caroline Clarke '14 and Martha Geyer '14 during a team night out bowling.



Team members all dressed up for Halloween.