Proctor Fall Sports Preview: Girls Soccer, Field Hockey, Cross Country, & Mountain Biking

By Scott Allenby
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Girls Varsity Soccer

Under the guidance of veteran head coach Karl Methven, the girls varsity soccer team will look to build upon its recent success in Lakes Region League play. After battling to a 9-5-1 record during the 2009 season, the Hornets will look to utilize the quality experience of returning young talent to challenge for a league title.

Despite graduating six seniors, returning talent abounds throughout the Hornet roster, as 13 players with varsity experience will attend preseason training camp in early September. Local talent is well-represented among those 13 as Meredith Cline and Breanna Davis of Andover, Jamie Gaines of Warner, Raenana Lucey of Newbury, Kali Stevens of New London, and Kelcey Wilcox of Wilmot all look to make significant contributions.

Seniors Kerry Daigle of Centerville, Massachusetts, Norah Lawrence of North Hampton, Massachusetts, Chelsea Ogwuru of North Andover, Massachusetts, and Kelsey Taylor of St. Andrews, New Brunswick will provide substantial leadership, while juniors with potent offensive potential, Annie Palmer of Manchester, Massachusetts and Kate Zeliff will also be an integral part of the team's success.

Nicole Adee of Marblehead, Massachusetts, Sylvie Bertrand of Etna, and Kelsey Crawford of Amherst each gained valuable experience as freshmen on the varsity squad last fall and will look to have a significant impact again this season.

Over the past four seasons, the girl's varsity soccer team has been one of the most successful at Proctor, with a cumulative record of 30-16-9. This season promises to bring more of the same from Farrell Field as coaches Methven and Melanie Manness look to teach both technical and tactical lessons while encouraging selfless dedication to team.

Varsity Field Hockey

First year head coach Avery Hoglund (Proctor '02) looks to build upon the success of Proctor's varsity field hockey program during the 2010 season. Under the leadership of returning seniors Lindsay Hoar of New London and Bridget Daly of Portsmouth, Rhode Island and returning juniors Courtney Birch of Harwich, Massachusetts, Warren Davis of Wilmington, Delaware, Cat Kinney of Greenwich, Connecticut, Allie O'Sullivan of North Hampton, Sam Pion of East Hampton, Massachusetts, and Jessica George of Andover, the Hornets should be a force to be reckoned with in the Lakes Region.

This core group of returning players will bring invaluable experience to every position on the field and will, as Coach Hoglund desires, create an expectation of excellence in both practices and games. Coach Hoglund also notes that returning sophomores Michelle Connacher of Stowe, Vermont, Michelle Holmes of Goffstown, Morgan Koenig of Wilmot, and Francheska Ventura of Lawrence, Massachusetts all will contribute significantly, given their varsity experience and physical talents.

As the season begins, the strong core of returning players will clearly need to set the tone for a group of seven incoming student-athletes. Coach Hoglund comments, "We will look for each player to come to practice each day ready to work hard, to push each other to be better, and to have a willingness to improve her skills all while establishing an atmosphere of fun within the team."

The Hornets will kick off Sports Camp on September 8 and will have their first test of the season when they take part in a set of scrimmages on

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PROCTOR HORNET GETS A NEW LOOK

Proctor Athletic Office press release

The 2010/11 academic year not only welcomes over 120 new students to Proctor Academy's campus, but also a redesigned hornet logo as the school's mascot featuring sport specific renditions of the mascot. The newest version of the school mascot marks the third major edition of the Proctor Hornet.

According to Chuck Will, Director of Communications and unofficial school historian, prior to 1973 Proctor Academy had a logo, but no official mascot. By 1980, the first "hornet suit" had arrived on campus and made its inaugural appearance worn by an energetic volunteer at the annual Proctor – Holderness School football game.

In an age where school spirit was defined in large part by formulaic cheers rehearsed by the school body prior to important games or contests, the hornet took flight and gained popularity as the school's mascot over the coming decades. Throughout the 1980s and into the 1990s, Proctor used a generic clip art hornet before eventually evolving to the most recent version of clipart used since the 2000-2001 school year.

The impetus for the newly redesigned hornet came from Travis Warren (PA '91 and current trustee). Owner of Whipplehill, the school's Web site provider based in Bedford, Warren worked with the school over the past few years on its marketing and branding efforts. According to Athletic Director Gregor Makechnie (PA '90), Warren suggested Proctor create a hornet unique to the school, rather than utilizing generic clipart, in order to further develop its brand.

The product of many months of conversations, designs, redesigns, and detailed editing, the newest version of the hornet is just one example of the continued evolution of programming at Proctor heading into the 2010/11 school year.

The busy summer on campus saw significant trail improvements at the Blackwater Ski Area aimed to enhance the race experience of users; the completion and furnishing of a new community coffee house that will open in the old Blackwater Ski Shop this fall; and major renovations to Slocomb Hall, home of the studio arts, ceramics, and photography programs, all seeking to augment the overall educational experience Proctor is able to afford its students.

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