

Amherst girls lax falls short against Fairport

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**
Reporter

The Amherst Central girls lacrosse team's competitive non-league schedule continued last Friday with a 12-10 loss to Fairport at Amherst Central's Dimp Wagner Field.

Fairport was a Section V Class A semifinalist last year.

"It was a good test against a strong opponent from Section V," said Amherst coach Janet Battaglia. "We learned in this game that in contests against opponents like this, little mistakes often have big consequences. All in all, the team put out an intense effort."

Amherst opened the season with losses to Bishop Ludden and Liverpool, each from Syracuse.

Although Fairport went up 2-0 on Amherst in the first seven minutes of play, the Lady Tigers tied things up with goals from Brooke Bullock and Amy Simon, both off of feeds from Abbie Gowen.

After the teams traded goals (Kristin Scaringi for Amherst), it looked like Fairport would go into halftime ahead, 6-4, but Amherst goals at the 42 second (Gowen - 100th career goal) and one-second mark (Amy Simon, from Gowen) tied the score at 6-6.

Battaglia said Fairport came out hungrier in the second half which led to three straight goals that put her team in a hole that was tough to get out of.

She said her team rallied to within one goal to make it 10-9 with under 10 minutes remaining from goals by Bullock, Daisy Timlin (two goals) and Scaringi.

"Our defensive end played very well and the attack found a variety of ways to score," said Battaglia. "I feel we came up short controlling the midfield and



Amherst Central's Daisy Timlin, right, and Fairport's Amanda Whaley battle for the lacrosse ball during the Lady Tigers' 12-10 loss on Friday afternoon at Dimp Wagner Field. Timlin scored two goals.

Photo by Joe Eberle
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the ball for stretches of time that gave Fairport too much momentum. Their goalie (Heather Sacko - 10 saves) came up with some big, timely saves. The defense broke the stall four or five times and we transitioned the ball downfield to get the shot but

twice missed the catch and shot at the goalie."

Kayleigh Johnson, who scored 56 goals and 16 assists in 2007 for Fairport, had six tallies and one helper against Amherst. Shelby Vakiener added four goals and one assist.

Amherst is 2-4 overall but 2-1 against Section VI teams. The Lady Tigers defeated East Aurora, 14-11, on April 8 in a rematch of the Section VI Class C final won by Amherst, and dominated Williamsville South, 22-5, on April 10. Amherst lost to Lancaster, 13-6, on Monday, April 21.

Battaglia called the East Aurora game fast and physical.

Amherst, led by three consecutive goals by Timlin, took the early lead but East Aurora answered goal for goal and tied it at 4-4 with eight minutes remaining in the first half.

The Lady Blue Devils went up a goal before Amherst answered with goals by Gowen and Bullock. Each would score twice more before halftime, sending Amherst into the break with a 7-6 lead.

Amherst opened the scoring early in the second half with Lily Timlin finding Gowen. Amherst extended the lead to 10-7 with goals from Bullock and Gowen.

The teams would once again keep things close by alternating goals throughout the remainder of the game. Scaringi scored last for Amherst off a feed from Gowen.

"Our biggest lead was four goals late in the second half but East Aurora wouldn't say quit," said Battaglia.

Daisy Timlin led Amherst's offense with a career-high seven goals and two assists.

"Daisy put the team on her back," said Battaglia. "The team

played well around her but when the game got close, she found the net. Daisy had three consecutive first half goals to give us life and three more consecutively in the second half to put us up by four."

Gowen finished with three goals and four assists.

Defensively, Battaglia said her team did a nice job of closing as a unit and Ellie Poleon came up big in the net with 17 saves.

"That was a huge game for Ellie," said Battaglia.

The Lady Tigers spread out its scoring against South with 10 different players finding the net.

"We learned in this game that in contests against opponents like this, little mistakes often have big consequences."

— Janet Battaglia, Amherst girls lacrosse coach

Gowen (four goals, three assists), Scaringi (four goals, two assists) and Bullock (four goals, assist) led the charge. Simon and Daisy Timlin (two goals, three assists each); Lily Timlin (two goals, two assists); Steph Scime, Jessica Turpin and Erin Edson (goal each) also scored. Elana Korn and Stephanie Scime assisted.

"We were happy with the contributions from all team players," said Battaglia. "Eighteen of the 22 goals were assisted and the defense kept the opponents in check, which is a nice indication of team play."

Game highlights from the Lancaster game were unavailable before The Bee went to press. They play at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday at Eden and host Iroquois at 6 p.m. on Friday.

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North softball opens league play with wins

Lady Spartans also post victories at NT tournament

Williamsville North opened its 2008 softball season in impressive fashion, defeating Orchard Park, 4-2, on April 9 and opening their home season by defeating Frontier, 10-6, on Thursday, April 10.

Frontier is the defending Section VI and Far West Regional champion.

The Lady Spartans plated all four runs in the third inning against Orchard Park. Corrin Genovese started the onslaught with a hard smash up the middle. Kerri Bubar followed with a grounder past the third baseman for a single. Tricia Kennerly singled hard to left field to load the bases. Amanda Maraschiello then singled to center, scoring Genovese.

With the bases loaded, Kristin Ball hit a line shot to left scoring Bubar and Alexis Messina, who was running for Kennerly.

Leslie Ahern completed the scoring by driving a ball to left field, scoring Jennifer Kelly, who was running for Maraschiello.

Kennerly was masterful on the hill as she limited Orchard Park to five hits while striking out ten and not allowing any walks.

This was a celebration for Kennerly, who earlier in the day signed a National Letter of Intent to attend Niagara University and

continue her softball career with the Purple Eagles.

North coach Rick Bubar said Kennerly was the victim of some shabby infield play which cost her the shutout. The two runs scored by Orchard Park were unearned.

Ahern, the starting first baseman, also signed a National Letter of Intent that day to play Division I field hockey for Lock Haven University located in Pennsylvania.

It wasn't easier on Thursday as the Lady Spartans waged a hard fought battle with Frontier.

The Lady Spartans were short-handed as five regulars were not in the lineup so Ashley Fillmore and Courtney Kadish were called up from the junior varsity and both had impressive debuts.

North opened the scoring in the bottom of the second as Maraschiello reached first on catcher's interference and Messina, running for Maraschiello, stole second and scored on a single by Kadish.

Frontier responded with a run of their own in the top of the third but North responded with two runs of their own in the bottom of the second. Fillmore started the rally with a hard single up the middle.

Kerri Bubar executed a sacrifice bunt to advance Fillmore and due to an error, both runners were safe. Robin Kennerly plated both runners with a drive over the center fielder's head for a stand up triple. Frontier responded with two runs to tie the score.

The seesaw battle continued as North scored once in the bottom of the fourth inning to lead 4-3. Kadish reached on an error and promptly stole second. Kelly drilled a hard grounder to right field, scoring Kadish.

Frontier again was up to the challenge and scored two runs in the top of the fifth inning.

Nikki Attea came on to quell the rally by striking out the first hitter she faced and got the next hitter to hit a soft liner to the shortstop to end the inning.

The Lady Spartans responded by scoring twice in the bottom of the fifth to regain the lead. Kerri Bubar opened the inning by singling to right field. Robin Kennerly followed with a drive over the left fielder's head for a triple. Unfortunately, Bubar was gunned down at the plate on two nice relays by Frontier. Kennerly scored as Attea lined a single up the middle.

Erica Stricko, running for Attea, scored

the second run of the inning on a sacrifice fly by Kadish.

The Lady Spartans extended the lead in the bottom of the sixth, scoring four runs. Kelly and Caitlin Riegel each hit singles and scored on a double by Fillmore, who advanced to third on the throw home. Kerri Bubar then executed a perfect suicide squeeze bunt, scoring Fillmore.

Frontier scored once more in the top of the seventh to end the scoring.

This past weekend, North won both of its games to qualify for the winners bracket in the 25th North Tonawanda Varsity Invitational Softball Tournament at the Edward Belbas Fields in North Tonawanda.

The Lady Spartans beat Mount St. Mary's, 6-5, and Kenmore West, 3-1, to advance. The other teams that advanced were Frontier, West Seneca East, Depew, Niagara-Wheatfield and Fredonia.

Attea, an eighth-grader, was impressive in her debut on the mound, striking out 14 batters and allowing only four hits against Mount St. Mary's.

North fell behind 4-0 when their bats came to life in the bottom of the third. Fillmore led off with a single and advanced

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