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Extra Thoughts: Lawrenceville at Princeton Day

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My story on Lawrenceville defeating Princeton Day, 3-1, focused on the play of Nikki Rivera. I remember watching her play last season in the midfield. She appears to have improved and was all over the field.

Head coach Lisa Ewanchyna feels having Eliza Becker in the midfield behind Rivera on the left side has helped Rivera.

"She's just great on that side of the field," Ewanchyna, a former All-America at Princeton University, said. "She has great stickwork. She is really key to much of our ball movement. Nikki and Eliza play on the same side, so they complement each other."

Becker injured her ankle in the game. Rivera slid back to midfield while another player played up on the forward line.

Lawrenceville looked great in the win. Once again, the Big Red will be formidable this season.



Martin Griff/The Times

Princeton Day's Mimi Matthews, left, and The Lawrenceville School's Rebecca Hu battle for the ball in the second half.

"It sounds a little cheesy to say, but it's the love of hockey," Ewanchyna said, pinpointing the team's success year after year. "It's such a nice, supportive team, and they work hard for each other. Yes, we have some girls who play club, but really, this team is such a nice group of kids."

Speaking of kids, Ewanchyna is pregnant with her third child. The baby is due the first week of November. It remains to be seen if she will join the list of coaches who have given birth during the season. Alli Treese was the last to do so two years ago. Before that, Jami Taranto at Hopewell Valley had a daughter. The state championship game is always the first Sunday in November, so Ewanchyna will be cutting it close.

She already has two boys and said she isn't wishing for a girl to coach field hockey to. She said, "I have enough girls," of course referring to the team.

Another noticeable change for the Big Red is the fact that Ewanchyna is going with one goalie thus far. Last season, Katherine Comly and Shivani Chanillo. This time around, Comly has gotten the call.

"They've both played pretty well," Ewanchyna said. "I think we tried to get each one as much playing time last year. Shivani was a little bit injured at the beginning of the season. Kat has stepped up, and she has continued to play really good field hockey for us in goal. Sometimes, you just don't want to mess with the system."



Martin Griff/The Times

Lawrenceville head coach Lisa Ewanchyna is pregnant with her third child. The baby is due the first week of November. The prep state final is Nov. 7. Will she be on the sidelines?