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Girls Skate to Best Record in Big Red History

When the Big Red girls' ice hockey team squeaked out an overtime win in December against Taft, Lawrenceville head coach Nicole Uliasz suspected something might be up. When Big Red defeated Choate 4-1 the following day, Uliasz, usually reluctant to make any early season predictions, told her assistant coach, "I think we're going to do really well this season."



She was right. The 2012 squad skated to the best record in Big Red girls' ice hockey history: 17-4-1.

The coach cited several reasons for the team's success, most notably the leadership of the six Fifth Form players: Charlotte Brace, Sarah Bryant, Brianna Cook, Lindsey Gallinek, Michaela Levine, and Nikki Rivera. Gallinek joined the team as a Third Former, but the remaining five have competed for Uliasz for four years. "All six of them came together and worked well as a group. They were the role models who set the tone for the team," said Uliasz.

Goaltender [Bryant](#), who signed a National Letter of Intent with Providence College last fall, was a sturdy backbone for Big Red. "The first thing opposing teams noted was how strong our goalie was," said Uliasz. "She played her angles well and covered rebounds." Bryant was protected by what her coach called a "smart" core of defenders (all adept at moving the opposition away from the net and out of scoring range) and "scrappy" forwards with quickness and scoring ability. "I heard other coaches say that the hardest thing about playing against us was that we didn't give up, no matter what," remarked Uliasz. "The girls just kept on going."

Positive reinforcement is a key part of Uliasz's coaching philosophy, a message that was echoed by her team leaders. "I had some great players and some great talent, but I think the reason the team was successful is because they worked well together and they were all there for each other," said Uliasz. "They had a ton of heart and worked very hard throughout the season."

A few tears were shed, Uliasz admitted, when the girls closed their season with a 4-2 win over Millbrook School. "It's going to be tough letting my six seniors go, but we have a strong crew here and it will be interesting to see what new players enter the program," she said. "I'm already looking forward to next year."

For additional information on all Lawrenceville School news, please contact Lisa M. Gillard Hanson, director of Public Relations, at lgillard@lawrenceville.org.