



Top Stories



Complete Game 3 coverage: Devils vs. Rangers



Rangers fans trying to invade Devils' home turf



Man jailed after teller gives him too much money

Home > Times of Trenton Sports > High school sports

Culhane's play key as Lawrenceville School field hockey wins MCT title

Published: Monday, October 31, 2011, 11:17 PM Updated: Tuesday, November 01, 2011, 10:57 AM



By **Anthony Coleman/The Times**
Follow

Recommend Be the first of your friends to recommend this. Share

Tweet 0 Email

0 Print

LAWRENCE - It's all about Sara Culhane finding her niche.

The junior forward on the Lawrenceville School field hockey team is more in love with the kind of hockey played with a puck and on ice.

With players like Eliza Becker and Nikki Rivera owning the midfield and Megan McLaughlin leading the team in scoring on the front line, Culhane had to find out what she does best.

"I am a pretty good passer," she said. "When we get corners or when we bring it up the field and I see Megan or I see Maddie Jones, I try to be the person to get the offense going after the midfielders bring it up.

"I'm pretty fast, so I try to use my speed, try to use my teammates' speed to generate some momentum for our team, so we can finish some balls and hopefully get a win."

In yesterday's Mercer County Tournament final, Culhane did more than enough to get the offense going and to get a win. She tied her season-high of five points in finishing with a pair of goals and



Enlarge Martin Griff / The Times

The Lawrenceville School players celebrate their teams 4-3 win Hopewell Valley in the Mercer County Tournament field hockey final played at Rider University in Lawrence Township on Monday, October 31, 2011. Martin Griff / The Times of Trenton

To purchase prints of this photo, visit TimesofTrenton.zenfolio.com

Field Hockey: Lawrenceville vs. Hopewell Valley 10/31/2011 gallery (13 photos)



an assist to lead the third-seeded Big Red to a 4-3 victory over top-seeded Hopewell Valley at Ben Cohen Field on the campus of Rider University.

"I think she has really worked on her defensive game enough that it's created some (offensive) opportunities for her," head coach Lisa Ewanchyna said. "Sara is super fast. She's not your traditional field hockey player. She's an ice hockey player, and she has picked (field hockey) up. She's a natural athlete.

"Working on her defense (blocking balls and double-teaming) has really given her offense a lot of momentum. She's coming after balls and realizing she can play that role. She always doesn't have to be the one receiving and distributing the ball. I think that has altered her game a lot and given her a lot more confidence."

The title was the Big Red's first since 1997 after not playing in the tournament from 2001-10. Hopewell Valley finished runner-up for the second year in a row.

"It feels really good," said Becker who was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. "My teammates definitely helped me a lot out there on the field. I am very happy."

It was a back-and-forth affair. The loss overshadowed Alicia Wagner's sixth hat trick of the season. She scored her first just 2 minutes, 51 seconds into the game to put the Bulldogs on the board first. Lawrenceville came back with three unanswered for the lead at the break. McLaughlin (ninth of the year), Julia Minnetian (first) and Culhane (eighth) were responsible for the goals.

"Julia had a beautiful goal; she was in the right place at the right time," Ewanchyna said of the post goal on a penalty corner. "She knows what to do. We haven't had a lot of those goals off the corner. She just sits back and waits. Obviously, her coming through was huge just like Sara Culhane on the offense."

Wagner scored her 34th on a corner (set up by Colby Hussong and Tess Brzezynski) to pull Hopewell Valley within a goal. But less than two minutes later, Culhane scored with 20:24 remaining. Wagner scored again at 19:50, but Lawrenceville was able to fend off Hopewell Valley, including two corners after time had expired, for the title.

"It feels great," Ewanchyna said. "I don't try to live vicariously through the girls, but I know how much this meant to them to be back in the tournament. They said they wanted to win it. They had a tough ride the whole way. I think once we finally broke through against West Windsor-Plainsboro North (in the semis), I felt like we were getting our groove together.

"It was an awesome feeling. I think we came in here with confidence which I think was good. This game could have gone either way. (Hopewell Valley) is a super great team; look at their record. (Head coach) Pam (Edwards) does a great job. I am just thrilled with the fact that our girls had this thing they wanted to do, and they did it."

Contact Anthony Coleman at acoleman@njtimes.com.

LAWRENCEVILLE 4, HOPEWELL VALLEY 3

Lawrenceville (13-3) 3 1-4

Hopewell Valley (16-1) 1 2-3

Goals- L: Sara Culhane 2, Julia Minnetian, Megan McLaughlin; **HV:** Alicia Wagner 3. **Assists- L:** Culhane, McLaughlin, Nikki Rivera; **HV:** Colby Hussong, Tess Brzezynski.

Shots- L: 13, **HV:** 8. **Saves- L:** Galen Ogg 5; **HV:** Kristin Olszuk 8.



Sign in | Register for free

Site Search

Search Local Business Listings

Sign in with Facebook

Search for keywords, people, locations, obituaries, Web ID and more.. Submit

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Living](#)
- [Interact](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Autos](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Rentals](#)



Photos from The Times of Trenton

View New Jersey News, Community, Sports, Weather Images & Pictures

Field Hockey: Lawrenceville vs. Hopewell Valley 10/31/2011



Tuesday, November 01, 2011 1:11 AM



By **Martin Griff / The Times**

[Follow](#)

[Recommend](#)

0

The Lawrenceville School players celebrate their teams 4-3 win Hopewell Valley in the Mercer County Tournament field hockey final played at Rider University in Lawrence Township on Monday, October 31, 2011. Martin Griff / The Times of Trenton



You'll Love Your Kitchen SALE!
 Come join us at our Pre-Summer Sale
May 17 - May 25th

Great Savings
 Great Cabinet Selection
 Expert Installation/DIY
973.386.5500



KITCHENS & Baths
 us-kitchens.com

Sign in | Register for free

Sign in with Facebook

Site Search

Search Local Business Listings

Search for keywords, people, locations, obituaries, Web ID and more.. Submit Q

Brought to you by:



[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Weather](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Interact](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Rentals](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Find n Save](#)



Photos from The Times of Trenton

[View New Jersey News, Community, Sports, Weather Images & Pictures](#)

Field Hockey: Lawrenceville vs. Hopewell Valley 10/31/2011



Tuesday, November 01, 2011 1:11 AM



Improvement In Bariatric Patients'
HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE
Once They Lose Weight

Sign in | Register for free

Site Search Search Local Business Listings

Brought to you by:

Sign in with Facebook

Search for keywords, people, locations, obituaries, Web ID and more.. Submit Q

DELTA DENTAL

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Weather](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Interact](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Rentals](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Find n Save](#)



Photos from The Times of Trenton

[View New Jersey News, Community, Sports, Weather Images & Pictures](#)

Field Hockey: Lawrenceville vs. Hopewell Valley 10/31/2011



Tuesday, November 01, 2011 1:11 AM