



Field hockey wins Prep A championship in double-overtime

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Maddie Copeland '12 scored the first and last goal. Her last tally, the golden goal, launched top-seeded Peddie to a 4-3 victory over the No. 2 seed Lawrenceville School in a game that delivered heart-pounding intensity from start to finish Sunday on the Falcon pitch.



Peddie earned a penalty corner with time winding down in the second 10-minute extra frame as two spent teams waged six-on-six hockey. Morgan Crowe '14 dished a set up to Copeland at the top of the scoring arc, but her initial shot was stuffed by Nikki Rivera. However, the ball nestled in front of Copeland, allowing her to blast a shot at the Big Red cage. Surrounded by Falcons, keeper Galen Ogg made a beautiful pad save, but Copeland's third attempt, a backhand flip went high-side right for the game-winner.

And there was "Pandemonium in Hightstown" as the Falcon bench poured onto the field and surrounded Copeland in celebration.

"She's not letting anyone take that shot for her either," head coach Allison Treese said. "The person who wants the ball is going to win the game for you. She's clearly the one who wants to have the ball on her stick. It comes down to that, and she can clearly do something with it when she gets it."

The strategy worked.

"We tried to pass the ball left and right (after it was inserted on the corner), but they had people coming out left and right, so everybody just said, 'Maddie take the straight shot,'" Copeland said. "They came out really fast. I knew I had to get around them. I took the shot, and I saw the rebound coming right at me. I knew I had to get it."

After Copeland notched her first goal in the second minute, Sara Culhane knotted the game at one-all in the 21st minute. The Falcons answered with a pair of goals in a two-minute span as Becca Hetrick lasered a shot from the right flank into the Big Red cage and Steph Saxton '14 jammed home a redirection from Kerrie Kortmann '12 for the 3-1 advantage at intermission.

The Falcons controlled the tempo in the first 30 minutes, holding a decisive 11-3 edge in penalty corners. However, Big Red came out on fire and got an early goal from Maddie Jones in the 34th minute.

Taylor Pennell '12 almost gave the Falcons a 4-2 lead in the 48th minute, but her slapper off a penalty corner whistled just wide to the right.

Jones scored the equalizer off a wild scramble in front of the net with 5:19 remaining in regulation. Megan Mooney '14, who replaced starting goalie Danielle Rette '14 forced out by a knee injury making a pair of kick saves at 5:40, had no chance on the shot knocked through a crowd of players.

"That was a tough spot for Megan (Mooney)," Treese said. "She's been here all year, so it wasn't like we didn't trust that she could go in and do it. She did a great job in there. We are really proud of how she did and how she stepped in Danielle's shoes and did what she could to help us."

Mooney made a kick save near the left post with time winding down in regulation and made another stop in the first overtime and effectively directed traffic on two crucial penalty-corner chances for Big Red in the second overtime.

Not to go unnoticed, Crowe made a fabulous lunging interception and broke up a dangerous 2-on-1 break by Big Red with 50 seconds to go in the first OT session.

The title is the fourth consecutive for the Falcons. They won the crown outright in 2008 and 2009 and last year they were co-champs with Lawrenceville after the game ended in a 1-1 double overtime draw.

Peddie finishes another championship season with a 15-2 mark having lost only to powers Eastern and Shore Regional. Lawrenceville's season, which saw them win the Mercer County Tournament, has a 14-4 mark.

"It feels great," Copeland said. "We certainly wanted to win it in regulation, because you want to win it right away. But it was worth the double overtime. I was worried it might end up like last year with the tie, but we just knew we didn't want to end it like that. So we knew that we really had to leave it all out there."

Treeese added, "I couldn't believe it, another second overtime. Both teams, all the girls out there gave it everything they had. That's a testament to Lisa (Ewanchyna, head coach) and the Lawrenceville team. They played really hard, and we played really hard."

FALCON FACTS: Copeland's two goals lifts her season total to 35, surpassing her own record-breaking mark of 33 goals set in her junior year. There are two more regular season matches remaining as the Falcons host Germantown Academy on Wednesday before the grand finale on Saturday against Blair.

PEDDIE 4, LAWRENCEVILLE 3 (2 OT)

Goals— L: Sara Culhane, Maddie Jones 2; P: Maddie Copeland 2, Becca Hetrick, Steph Saxton.

Assists— L: Evie Bird, Culhane; P: Morgan Crowe 2, Copeland 2, Kerrie Kortmann.

Shots— L: 13; P: 12. Saves— L: Galen Ogg 9; P: Danielle Rette 8, Megan Mooney 2.