



## Sports

### **HIGH SCHOOL FIELD HOCKEY: Peddie turns back Lawrenceville in double OT for fourth straight Prep A crown**

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By The Trentonian

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Peddie's Maddie Copeland, left and Lawrenceville's Maria Rivera chase a loose ball during Sunday's game in Hightstown. (Trentonian photo/Jackie Schear) 06nov11

HIGHTSTOWN — As the Prep A state championship was heading to overtime Alli Treese took a deep breath, then trusted her midfield and her senior leadership.

Oh, there were a few tense moments for the Peddie coach as Lawrenceville showed through the entire game that there is very little difference between the two prep powers.

It wasn't until the second overtime that the classic state final was decided when Maddie Copeland broke loose a ball in front to give the Falcons a hard-fought 4-3 win over the Big Red to clam another state championship on their turf.

The title is the fourth straight for the Falcons. They won outright in 2008 and 2009 and last year they shared with Lawrenceville.

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 with a game with Hill still on the schedule.

"This is pretty nice," said Treese, who has been the Falcons coach for all four Prep A crowns. "Both teams played really well. It was such a great game and I think that makes it a little special when both teams are playing their best."

And it was a showdown between the two best in the county and two of the best in the state.

"My kids were awesome," said Lawrenceville coach Lisa Ewanchyna. "I'm so proud of them. They played their hearts out. It is a group of girls that do it for each other and you have to contend with everyone on the field."

The title-clinching goal came when Becca Hetrick sent a ball in the circle. A scrum quickly added to the congestion in front of the cage, but Copeland broke a ball free and flicked it home with 3:05 remaining in the second overtime.

"When we went into the overtime I had faith in the kids," said Treese. "We wanted to let the midfield push the can and let the kids do what they can."

Copeland finished with a pair goals and an assist as she heads to Princeton University next season, Hetrick added another goal and Steph Saxton also had a goal for the Falcons. Morgan Crowe and Kerrie Kortmann added assists.

Kortmann and Taylor Pennell are a pair of seniors that have played a major role in all four Peddie state titles.

Lawrenceville, which can be proud of another great season, got a pair of goals from Maddie Jones and one from Sara Culhane. Evie Bird and Culhane had assists.

Early on it looked like the Falcons were going to do whatever it wanted as it jumped to a 3-1 lead with 5:49 left in the initial period when Hetrick converted a pass from Copeland.

Lawrenceville rallied in the second half to knot the score at 3-3 with 5:19 when Jones connected on her second score of the game.

Peddie lost goalie Danielle Rette to an injury in the second half and rallied around Megan Mooney, who kept the score even until Copeland found the back of the cage in the second overtime.

"This one is as exciting as the first," said Treese. "They are great kids and I'm excited for them."

Lawrenceville (14-4) 1 2 0 0 — 3  
Peddie (15-2) 3 1 0 1 — 4

Goals: L: Jones 2, Culhane. P: Copeland 2, Hetrick, Saxton. Assists: L: Bird, Culhane. P: Copeland, Crowe, Kortmann

Shots L: 10, P: 9. Saves: L: Ogg 5. P: Rette 6, Mooney 1.

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URL: <http://www.trentonian.com/article/20111106/SPORTS/311069993/high-school-field-hockey-peddie-turns-back-lawrenceville-in-double-ot-for-fourth-straight-prep-a-crown>