Lady Gators finish off post-season

Huntington- Soccer season at Gateway catapulted into postseason for the girls team, who finished their regular season with an overall record of 12 wins, 3 ties, and 3 losses. The Lady Gators were ranked second in the Division IV Western Massachusetts Tournament bracket.

Gateway faced Hopkins at home in the quarter final game, with the gators coming away with a 2-0 win. Both goals of the game were scored by Sophomore midfielder Ava Auclair, who was on fire through every minute of play. After the conclusion of the game, the girls took their victory run across Booster field holding hands, smiles radiating off of their faces. Every Gateway fan present was ecstatic and overjoyed at the outcome of the game, although slightly frozen from the cold and wet.

Going into the semifinal game versus Lenox, the girls were met with excitement, determination, and a bundle of nerves. Each player looked as if they were in their own world during warmups as they began to focus their minds on the game. Throughout the game, Gateway and Lenox fans alike had a few mini heart attacks, as there were many close plays that occurred. Becca Herman, Gateway’s junior goalkeeper made an incredible stop at one point, which was a crucial moment in the game. Herman came out of the goalie box to deny a Lenox player who was aiming for a breakaway. Luckily, Herman was able to get to the ball in time and keep Gateway in the game. A few missed opportunities came and went, which led to two 10 minute overtimes. Neither team was able to capitalize during this time, so the game would finish in penalty kicks.

Every soccer fan or player knows that penalty kicks are extremely stressful to watch and take part in. There is no room for error on the side of the goalkeeper or the offensive player, and is oftentimes a matter of luck. For the goalkeeper, they must judge the situation in an instant, not knowing what exactly the kicker will do until the exact moment it happens. On the offensive side, the players are repeating in their heads, “Don’t kick it at the goalie, don’t kick it over. Don’t kick it at the goalie, don’t kick it over.” This repeats over and over again as the players anxiously wait for their turn to take a kick. Each team had a few misses and a few hits early on in penalty kicks, with pressure building as each team was one goal away from the win. Gateway was not able to take that final kick to victory as Lenox cashed in on a great goal. The Gators played their hearts out and left everything out on the field, no energy left after a hard fought game.

We are very proud of our Gateway Gators and look forward to next year’s fall season with impatient excitement.

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Photo: the Lady Gator soccer team during the 2017 season. (photo credit to Jennifer Auclair).