

Senior halfback Pam Willinger controls the ball, guiding it towards her teammates, while a Princeton defender approaches.

HARD WORK PAYS OFF IN THE END

The girls varsity soccer team improves on its second encounters

"Looking at the schedule with our tough competition, I believed we could possibly lose 16 games or win 16 games." Coming into the season, this was one of the many things Coach Paula Hayden thought about for her girls varsity soccer team.

Hayden continued by saying, "We lost six starters from the last year, but I believed the new people could fill in and make the transition."

"Some of the goals of this season," Hayden commented, "were to improve every game, work hard at all times, and grow as a team." Hoping to accomplish these goals, the girls started off the season with some tough league competition including games against Lakota, Middletown, and Fairfield.

"We got off to a slow start," Mandy Hester replied, "but we learned to play with each other and this helped us to win."

Midway through the season the girls came alive, winning their next four games against such teams as Ursuline and McAuley, a team who had only lost one game. Senior Pam Willinger responded, "Winning four games and then tying Middletown and Fairfield gave us the hope and desire to beat anyone in the city."

Improvement played a big role during the season. In the first round of league competition, the girls record was 2-4, but in the second round of league play, the girls had a 3-1-2 record. Captain Susie Welch said, "Even though we didn't win every game, I know everyone tried their

hardest in every game. We all had tremendous heart when we played."

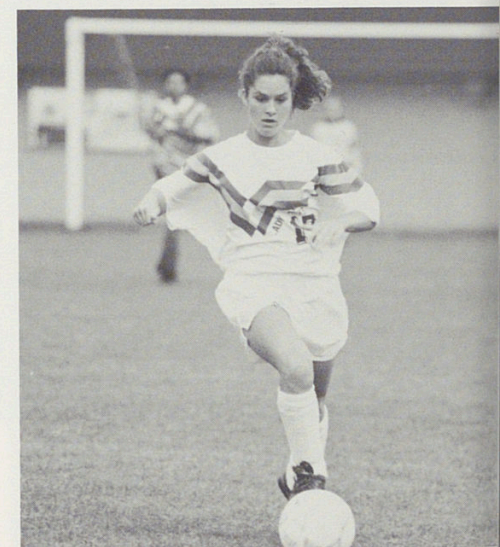
The first time they played Lakota, they lost 1-3, but the second time they won 1-0. Against Fairfield, they lost 0-1, but during their second encounter the team tied 2-2. Willinger commented, "We got better every game and that encouraged us to play harder each time." Losing to Middletown 2-1, the team came back to tie 2-2. Individual improvement came from Emily McNutt, Pam Willinger, Sheri Besso, and Laura Egloff.

The team ended its season by playing Milford and Seton, both with 13-2 records. Then in the tournament, the team played Glen Este, who had a 15-1 record. A big highlight of the season was scoring two goals against Glen Este, who had had 11 straight shutouts and had only four goals scored on them during the regular season. Welch responded, "The team was very supportive all year. Even though we didn't always win, no one ever gave up."

Hayden commented, "Our strength was from our seniors. They pushed the younger girls and showed them the ethics of hard work." The seniors included Susie Welch, Pam Willinger, Kerry Stanko, Heather Hoag, Janet Turner, and Stephanie Hutchison.

Hayden ended by saying, "There were a lot of hard workers on the team. If they would have executed as hard as they worked, we would have been undefeated."

By Amy Willinger



Sycamore players Christine Hamilton, Kerry Stanko, and Pam Willinger race to beat Princeton to the ball. Sycamore won 6-0.

Junior Kerry Henry concentrates on dribbling the ball down the field for Sycamore in their game against Princeton.

