

TAKING LACROSSE TO NEW LEVEL

Girls varsity set their eyes on victory

By: Christy Miller

These girls knew how to play lacrosse. They knew how to cradle, to dodge, to defend and to score. Most importantly, however, the girls knew how to step out onto the field and bring home a victory.

Playing all of the best teams in the state, the girls varsity lacrosse team had a difficult schedule. However, they rose to the challenge and emerged triumphant, with only three losses and three ties.

Coached under **Eddy Clark's** direction, the 27 girls were drilled in all aspects of the game. Conditioning started with an indoor season in the fall and weight lifting and running through the winter. Practice then began every day after school and lasted into June, the end of the season.

The seniors did, in fact, work very hard. **Erika Brandewie, 12**, and captains **Jennifer Mott, 12**, **Margaret Brown, 12**, and **Morgan Herlihy, 12**, led the team and left a legacy to be remembered.

"This was a big year for us. All the seniors gave it everything they had, and as a team, I think we did very well," said **Mott**.

The team did have something for which to be proud. After losing to a Columbus team, Cleveland Heights, in the final four match of the state tournament last year, the girls returned in the '06 season hungry for a victory. The team battled with the Tigers and came out victorious holding the title as the number one team in the state. It was the practiced passing and tight defense that stopped Cleveland Heights from winning and

pushed the lacrosse girls to the top.

Other key moments in the season included junior **Karen Nesbitt's** 100th career goal as well as captain and graduating senior **Margaret Brown's** 400th career goal. **Brown** also held the record for the most goals scored in a single game after scoring an amazing ten goals in a match against the St. Ursula Bulldogs.

"We're really proud of our upperclassmen. I thought they were going to be so mean to us, as underclassmen, but they were really great. All of them were so much fun to be with," said **Lily Ricci, 9**.

The game against Mariemont proved to be exciting as well. Ending regulation time with a tie at 9-9, the game rolled over into overtime in order to decide a city wide ranking. Very evenly matched, the girls stayed even with **Brown** scoring the final two goals, one to tie the game and one to pull ahead in the first half of overtime. However, Mariemont did not stop. They had one last attempt for victory with a shot in the last seconds of the second half of overtime, but the shot was stopped in an amazing save by **Mott** between the pipes.

These highlights from the season do not come close to describing how hard the girls worked to win.

"Being a part of such a great team was amazing. We worked really hard this season, and it shows in our accomplishments," said **Emile Hunter, 9**.

The girls varsity lacrosse team set their eyes on a state victory, and worked through the entire season to make it to the top.



Goalie and captain **Jennifer Mott, 12**, talks to her teammates during a game against Ursuline. **Mott** was on varsity all four years and was the team motivator, always positive and encouraging. Her hard work and dedication marked her as one of the most talented goalies in the state.



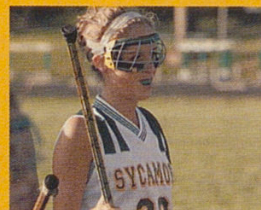
Defender **Rosemary Griffen, 11**, gets ready for the opening draw. **Griffen** led the team's defense with her third year playing on varsity. Her hard work and determination to play her best marked **Griffen** as a very important aspect in every game.



Emile Hunter 9, lowers her body to protect the ball from an Ursuline defender. As a freshman, **Hunter** managed to be a strong player for the team. She had a total of 24 goals and seven assists throughout the season.

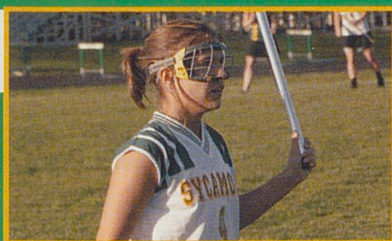
SPOTLIGHT

SENIOR



Morgan Herlihy, 12, runs onto the field during a home game. **Herlihy** was a true leader as a captain and strong attack player. She had 27 goals and 13 assists throughout the season.

Margaret Brown, 12, smiles and cheers on her teammates before a game. **Brown** was captain and leading scorer on the team. She displayed true dedication to the game and worked hard to get to state in her senior year.



"This season has been like no other. The girls are so much fun to be with and we have so many memories on the team. We have had to fight and work so hard this year, and I know it will all pay off in the end."
-Grace Naugle, 11