

Girls' Soccer: Toughing It Out Highlights Character

With three of Suffolk County's top girls' soccer teams in Whitman's division, the Wildcats started out slowly. But they gained momentum as the season progressed. "It was a tough year," said Coach Mike Moccia. "But I'm looking forward to picking up next year. And with a large group of underclassmen with varsity experience, I'm hoping for a better record than our season ending 2-9."

"On a bright note," he continued, "having a tough season can really put a spotlight on character, and I'm very proud of my seniors, all of whom stayed focused, kept the team together, and remained competitive." For the record, many of the games near the end of the season were close. Whitman lost four of those games by one goal. So as the team packs their gear away until spring's open gyms and summer's speed and agility drills and scrimmages, there is the hope for a better season, when the underclassmen will hopefully pick up the momentum and start strong.

As for the seniors graduating in June, Coach Moccia would like to recognize his captains, Laurie Stubenrauch, Jocelyn Addeo, and Michelle Garziano, for their leadership skills and for imparting to the rest of the team a sense of pride and hard work. Also ending their high school soccer careers are seniors Sarah Tully and Alexandra DelPrete in the goal and Paige DeRosa on defense. Looking forward, Whitman's freshmen Kelly Bilodeau is someone to keep an eye on, as is returning all-league player Alyssia Vallar, who moved to the defensive position.

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