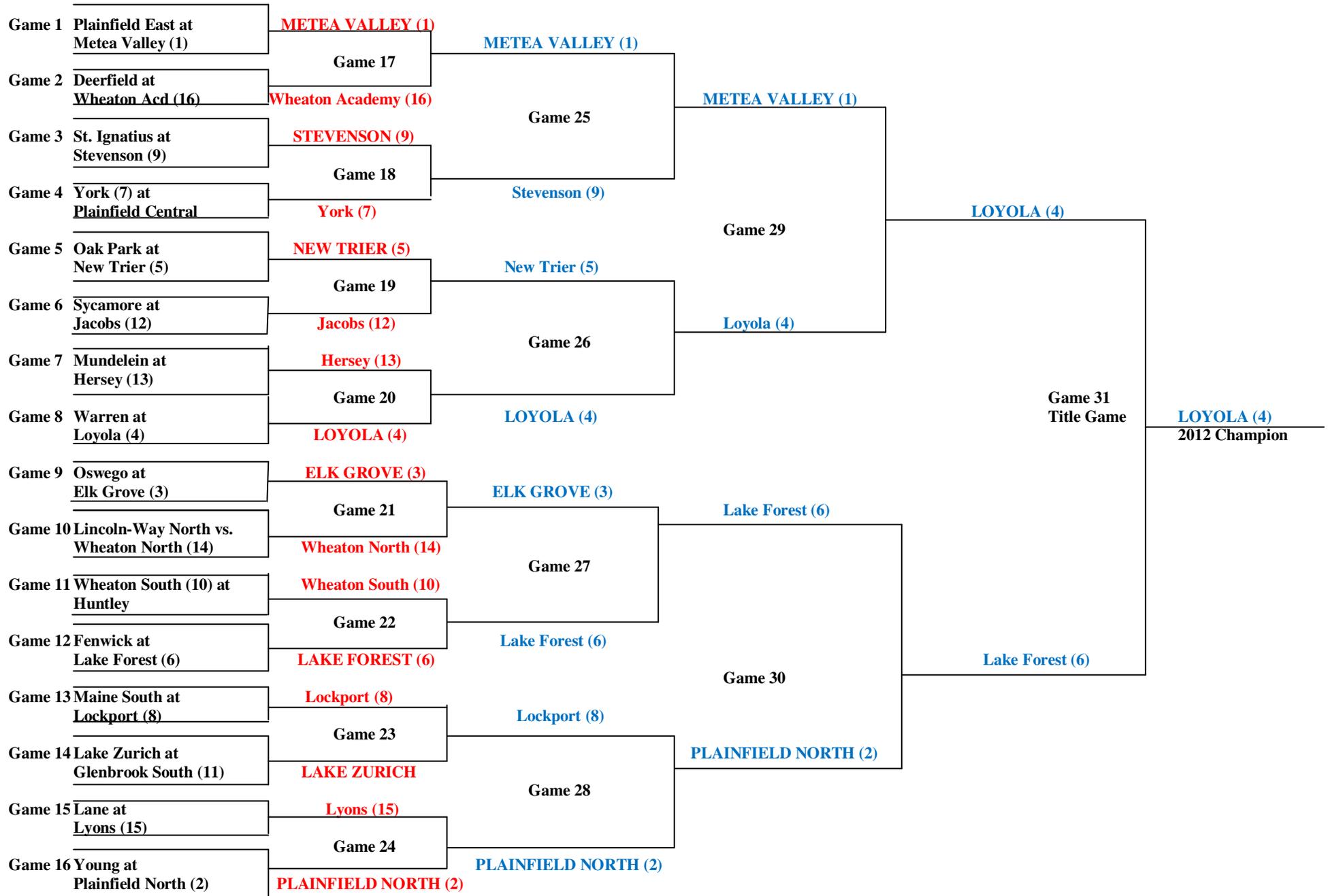


2012 PEPSI SHOWDOWN BRACKET – WWW.PEPSISHOWDOWN.COM

Tues, April 10 Thurs., April 12 Sat., April 14 at Olympic Park Sat., April 21 at Olympic Park Sun., April 22 at Toyota Park



April 10 results

Metea Valley 6, Plainfield East 0
 Plainfield North 4, Young 0
 New Trier 2, Oak Park 0
 Loyola 4, Warren 0
 Elk Grove 5, Oswego 1
 Lake Forest 2, Fenwick 0
 York 5, Plainfield Central 1
 Lockport 2, Maine South 0
 Stevenson 2, St. Ignatius 0
 Wheaton Warrenville South 2, Huntley 0
 Lake Zurich 5, Glenbrook South 2
 Jacobs 4, Sycamore 2
 Hersey 3, Mundelein 0
 Wheaton North 3, Lincoln-Way North 1
 Lyons 4, Lane 0
 Wheaton Academy 7, Deerfield 2

April 12 results**PEPSI BRACKET**

Elk Grove 2, Wheaton North 1
 Lake Forest 2, Wheaton Warrenville South 1
 Lockport 2, Lake Zurich 1 OT
 Stevenson 5, York 4 OT
 Loyola 2, Hersey 0
 Plainfield North 2, Lyons 0
 New Trier 1, Jacobs 0
 Metea Valley 2, Wheaton Academy 0

MUSCLE MILK BRACKET

Oak Park 3, Payton 0
 Marian Catholic 2, U-High 0
 Hinsdale South 2, Joliet 1
 Niles North 1, Young 0
 Lincoln-Way North 2, Plainfield Central 0
 Sycamore 3, Oswego 2
 Plainfield East 3, St. Ignatius 2
 Glenbrook South 1, Fenwick 0
 Lane 4, Warren 0
 Huntley 0, Deerfield 0
 Maine South 3, Mundelein 0

Muscle Milk Showcase Saturday Results (4-14)

At Olympic Park in Schaumburg

Field 1

Lane 3, Sycamore 1
 Lyons 1, Wheaton Academy 0
 Lake Forest 2, Elk Grove 1OT
 Loyola 2, New Trier 0

Field 2

Fenwick 2, Niles North 1
 Wheaton North 2, Huntley 1
 Metea Valley 3, Stevenson 0
 Plainfield North 2, Lockport 0

Field 3

Mundelein 1, Young 1
 Warren 2, Payton 0
 Joliet West 3, U-High 2
 Oak Park 3, Marian Catholic 1

Field 5

Glenbrook South 4, Oswego 0
 Lake Zurich 4, Plainfield East 2
 Hersey 1, Jacobs 0
 York 3, Deerfield 0

Field 7

Wheaton Warrenville South 2, Hinsdale South 1
 Lincoln-Way North 4, St. Ignatius 0
 Maine South 1, Plainfield Central 1

April 19 results

Lockport 7, Plainfield East
 Niles North 2, Payton 1
 Hinsdale South 0, St. Ignatius 0
 Huntley 3, Wheaton Academy 2
 Mundelein at Jacobs
 Joliet West at Marian Catholic
 Deerfield 2, Maine South 2
 Lincoln-Way North 8, U-High 0
 Hersey 1, York 0
 Stevenson 1, Glenbrook South 0

***Muscle Milk Showcase Saturday Results
(4-21)***

Field 1

Fenwick 1, Oak Park 0
Loyola 1, Metea Valley 0
Lake Forest 1, Plainfield North 0
Glenbrook South 6, Elk Grove 0

Field 2

Huntley 0, Lyons 0
Jacobs vs. Stevenson
York 5, Maine South 0
Lake Zurich 2, Wheaton Academy 2

Field 3

Deerfield 2, Sycamore 0
Hinsdale South vs. Plainfield East
Mundelein vs. U-High
New Trier 3, Lincoln-Way North 1

Field 5

Lockport 2, Lane 1
Hersey 2, Oswego 1
Elk Grove vs. Glenbrook South, 1
Payton vs. Wheaton Warrenville South

Field 7

Warren 6, Marian Catholic 0
Ignatius: 4, Joliet West: 1
Plainfield Central 2, Niles West 0
Wheaton North 2, Young 1

Title Game at Toyota Park

Loyola 1, Lake Forest 0

Blogs

Deerfield

4-9-2012

Hannah Rosin, #18

The Deerfield Warriors are excited about being back in the Pepsi Showdown again. Our team has been working hard, and we are excited for the opportunity to play some quality teams that we don't normally get to play. We are looking forward to the match up with Wheaton Academy to see how we match up with the best of class 2A because we are in class 2A this year. Our captains Leah Heller, Amanda Kellow, Savannah Stanaszek, and Samara Haas have done a great job getting us ready, and we look forward to the challenge. Good luck to all the teams, and go Warriors!

Glenbrook South

4-18-2012

Emma Sailer, JR, GK

The GBS Varsity Soccer team fell to Lake Zurich in our first game of the Pepsi Showdown last week on Tuesday. We came out early with a goal in the first three minutes by April Cronin assisted by Lauren Sroubek, but began to back off our opponents. We were able to score again with a goal by Carolyn Nash in the second half, but it wasn't enough. We lost 2-5 which was incredibly difficult for all of us to handle, especially the seniors. Getting out in the first round to a team ranked lower than us was really heart breaking. Fortunately since that game we have been on a three game winning streak with a record of 6-3-4 now. Last Thursday we took on Fenwick for Pepsi and shut them down with a 1-0 win and a goal by April Cronin. Going off of that win we took on Oswego on Saturday and came out strong with a 4-0 win and two goals by April Cronin, one from Nicole Sroubek, and the fourth from Carolyn Nash. We've been playing great as a team and have been connecting up the field which is apparent from our last few scores. Last night we took on Evanston, a conference game, and came out with a goal in the first minute by Kaily Bruch. That was followed by goals by April Cronin and Eleni Haramaras ending in a 3-0 win. We are hoping to go 4-1 and finish out the Pepsi Showdown strong and as a team. Although things didn't go our way the first round, we are going to stay positive and it looks like that game may have been the turning point we needed.

4-9-2012

Emma Sailer, JR, GK

This years Glenbrook South varsity girls soccer team is made up of one freshman, two sophomores, 10 juniors, and eight seniors. In other terms 11 returners and 10 girls fresh to the team. Our team is coached by Seong Ha who is in his sixth season as head coach, having already achieved three conference championships, four regional championships, two sectional championships, one super-sectional championship and therefore a state appearance and 4th place finish in 2010. Coach Ha is assisted by Meghan Bargar who is in her first year at South, as well as Jordan Kellgren in her third year. We come to the tournament with a record of 3-2-4 as

of April 9 having let up five goals and put away twelve. Off to a bit of a rough start, the team consensus is to pick up our intensity which has been lacking thus far. "I think [our record] is a poor representation of our team," said senior co-captain Colleen McDonagh. "Both of the games were close that we lost in and we have played tough opponents. We are still meshing as a team and are ready to fight and win in the rest of our games this year." Our team has a very strong defensive force and like many teams we have struggled to score goals in the games where we were desperate for them. The Pepsi Showdown has created incredible opportunities for our team in the past few years. Last year the squad made it to the semi-finals with a loss to Lyons Township in penalty kicks. The year before, making it all the way to the finals at Toyota Park, but falling to Barrington in a 0-2 game. The returners all speak highly of the Pepsi Showdown and are hoping for another great experience. "We've been very successful in recent years and I think it always encourages a higher level of play for our team," said senior co-captain Eleni Haramaras. "This is usually where our upward trend starts, and we hope and expect for nothing less this year." Coach Ha is hoping for a similar result as the past two years and for all the girls to have fun and enjoy the high level of competition the tournament has to offer. We are all looking forward to a great tournament.

Hersey

4-22-2012

The Hersey girls soccer team finished up the Pepsi Showdown this past Saturday with a hard fought 2-1 come from behind win over Oswego. With the win, we finished the tournament 4-1, and saw great competition against strong opponents in Mundelein, Loyola, Jacobs, York, and Oswego. The tournament really gave us an opportunity to see teams and styles we have never played before, which will help us as we prepare for the end of our regular season. We wish all the teams good luck for the rest of the season and congratulations to Lake Forest and Loyola for making it to the championship game.

4-3-2012

Yesterday, the Pepsi showdown officially kicked off for the Hersey girls soccer team! We had a tough early round matchup against Mundelein and we're able to prevail with a 3-0 win. With our win, we will face one of the toughest challenges of the season against defending Pepsi Showdown champions Loyola in the round of 16. We are excited and look forward to our match on Thursday. We have been working extremely hard throughout the season in order to prepare for the tournament. We hope to continue our strong work ethic and wish good luck to all the teams!

4-3-2012

Nicole Gierman

Hi, this is Senior Nicole Gierman from the Hersey Girl's Soccer Team. The Hersey girls' soccer team is excited to play in this year's Pepsi Soccer Showdown! We can't wait to host Mundelein on our new turf field next Tuesday, April 10. It should be a very competitive match. We are excited to be part of the Pepsi as it provides a "playoff" like atmosphere, which will benefit us throughout our conference play as well as for the end of the season. We are hoping to take

one match at a time as each opponent will provide tough competition. Good luck to all of the teams who are competing!

Hinsdale South

4-15-2012

Vanessa Niestrom

Game vs. Wheaton Warrenville South

After the 2-1 win against Joliet West, we were ready to play. We came out a little slow the first half allowing Wheaton to score an early two goals, which ended up costing us the game. Heading into the second half we knew we had to come out with energy if we wanted to get back in the game. The second half was a completely different game, we dominated the half by making more opportunities and we were able to control the ball more. The hornets had many good shots but we weren't able to put the ball where we wanted it, in the back of the net. With close to five minutes left in the game Jessica Kozial was able to place a free kick and score for Hinsdale South. Although we ended up losing 2-1 we were able to prove ourselves in the second half and create more chances. I think next game our team will need to come out with the energy we had in the second half and we will be ready to face any team.

4-14-2012

Carolanne Pilch

After losing to OPRF in the first game in the Pepsi Showdown we came through with a win against Joliet West on thursday night. After the game against OPRF we told ourselves that we would come out with more pressure and intensity in our next game and we did! Our team talk before the game pumped us and we were able to come out and play with intensity. We were tied zero-zero at half and our coaches said if we scored in the first two-minutes of the next half they would buy us frosties! Hurray! Ali Lokanc scored a minute into the half and that meant that not only did we get free food but we were winning! Ali scored a couple of minutes later assisted by Jessica Koziol. We played as a unit and kept up our positive attitude the whole game. Although they got a goal on us on a free kick we pulled through with a win. I am very proud of my team and I hope we continue to win!

4-9-2012

Vanessa Niestrom

GAME VS OPRF

Today's outcome of the game was not exactly what we were shooting for. We just got our first win against Leyden and were hoping to come out strong against Oak Park River Forest. The game ending in a 3-1 loss, was well fought. Within the last minute of the first half OPRF knocked one in on a corner kick gaining energy to come out hard the second half. We were ready to use the wind advantage in the second half and we were all eager to score. Within the first 10 minutes of the second half Betta Bifero finished a cross off of a corner kick from Jessica Kozial tying the game 1-1. We had a few mistakes which allowed OPRF to jump ahead of us 2-1. Finally, OPRF scored one more goal on a free kick just outside the 18 yard box, hitting the upper corner. I think that we battled hard all game and maintained good intensity. We did a

nice job creating opportunities on the offensive half and defensively challenged OPRF the whole game. I think that next game we need to take more shots on goal and challenge the ball in the air more to win the 50/50's. We have a few more practices before our next match and will be ready to put out a good fight for our upcoming opponent.

4-9-2012

Carolanne Pilch

The Hornets are very excited to play and compete at a high level in the Pepsi Showdown this year. This is my fourth year participating and every year has been a great experience. Even though we have a young team this year we still strive to come home with a win every game. Throughout the season thus far we have been improving our skills and I know we will continue to get better through hard work. We wish all the teams the best of luck!

Huntley

4-19-2012

Games like today, make soccer a truly exciting sport, not only for the players but the coaches and fans as well. Huntley played Wheaton Academy, a very strong team. Wheaton came out very strong, scoring the first goal. We had the ball in their half for a while but Wheaton's defense kept us out of the goal. Until we scored off a corner to tie the game. Wheaton came back and scored another quick goal. We weren't ready to give up. We had possession down the field and got into the penalty box, only to get fouled. We were awarded a penalty kick and scored, tying the game once again. With another attack of possession we worked hard to get one more goal, leading 3-2 now. Both teams had many chances, we just pulled away with the win this time. Wheaton played a very good game and made us work very hard the whole game. They showed good sportsmanship and were a very respectful team. These are qualities that young teams like us, can learn from playing in the Pepsi Showdown. Although we are very young, we are playing well together but still have a lot of room for improvement.

4-5-2012

Got to love soccer games when you not only have to battle your opponent, but the weather as well. Today both the wind and Wheaton Warrenville South came out strong. Congratulations to WWS for walking away with the win. WWS provided a high level of competition and displayed the sportsmanship that has come to be expected out of the Pepsi Showdown. Even though we did not pull off the upset we were hoping for, we continue to grow stronger as individuals and as a team. Our goal is to learn from each and every game, as well as build character. The remainder of this tournament, and our regular season, will help us gather the experience we need to finish the year strong.

4-5-2012

Kelly Manczko

Our team is very excited to play in the Pepsi Showdown this year. This would be my third year playing in the Showdown and every year has been a great experience. I believe that we have the potential to go far in the tournament. It will definitely be a challenge for us this year,

considering we are facing some tough teams. We are such a young team and it's great that they will be able to experience this so early. They'll be able to pass on their knowledge to the future players of Huntley High School.

Jacobs

4-12-2012

Cassidy Sherman

We're happy with the result against sycamore Tuesday. We possessed the ball well and created good scoring opportunities. Sycamore was relentless and a very tough team. We are excited to have the opportunity to play such a talented team like New Trier. We have been working very hard and hope to advance further in the tournament.

4-4-2012

Lauren Grady

This year, we expect great things to happen through our hard work, dedication, and friendships both on and off the field. We are lucky to be a very skilled and close team, and plan to use our abilities to take us far. We are excited to be in the Pepsi Showdown this year so we can hopefully prove our talent and finish as a stronger team with some quality wins under our belt. We know that if we work together and do our absolute best in every game, we are a hard team to beat and we plan to put up a fight in every game. The love of the game is what drives us, and our trust in each other is what unites us.

Joliet West

4-14-2012

Shea Pierce

Thursday night we had the opportunity to play Hinsdale South thanks to the Pepsi Showdown. Within the first 10 minutes, we gave them a run for their money -- coming out strong and with confidence during each play. Unfortunately, we weren't able to get the win, losing 2-1 to the Hornets. Although we did not get the victory, we really gained a lot from the game and took the knowledge to help us get our win today against U-High. We came out quickly, and our confidence picked up after our first two goals, coming in off of crosses set-up from a ball played to the corner. It was good to finally see what we have worked on during practice come to life in a game. Now that we have gained some more confidence from a couple of wins, through both tournament and non-conference play, we are looking forward to our next match to see how much our success improves and really showing how much talent Joliet West has. As coach Tony Ndoca would say, "We have finally jumped off the cliff."

4-9-2012

Shea Pierce

This season, our team is focusing on the idea of "one." One moment, one game, one team. We are a young team varying from freshmen all the way to seniors, each bringing different strengths and weaknesses to the field. Our team is honored and excited to once again be a part

of the Pepsi Showdown this year, and we hope to show other teams what Joliet West is all about. This tournament is a great opportunity to face other teams we wouldn't normally get the chance to play. While doing so, we will gain more experience as a whole in hopes to improve for our conference play. Although we didn't compete to our full potential in our first game, we are using this negative setback and expending it as building block for our opponents in the future. We have the ability, skill, and talent to go far as a team this season, but it's up to us to show our heart and dedication for the game. Once we do so, we will be unstoppable.

Lake Forest

4-26-2012

Abby Shipp, sr. Captain

Championship Game:

The Scouts had a tough game against a talented Loyola team hosted at Toyota Park. The play was even throughout most of the game and Ginnie Revenaugh came up with an incredible save after a scramble in the box. The score remained 0-0 after the first half and both teams came out strong for the second. The Scouts had a free kick taken by Marina Katz, which skimmed the head of Danielle Loeger to an on-rushing Kali Polich. She took a rocket shot that hit the crossbar. The Scouts defense was resilient against a constant Loyola attack. With four minutes left in the game, Loyola crossed the ball to Colleen McShane who one touched the ball over Liz Clark's head. We wish Loyola the best of luck in the rest of their season!

Semifinal Game:

Our game on Saturday against Plainfield North was an exciting game. It was a very even match-up and both teams had great scoring opportunities. We finally got our goal when Catherine Traut took the ball to the end line and beautifully crossed it to Carly Hoke who headed it into the net. In the second half, Plainfield North put on the pressure and had the ball for most of the half. Liz Clark played her best game of the season and saved eight shots in the second half alone! We pulled it out in the end and are looking forward to playing in the Championship game at Toyota Park!

4-15-2012

Marina Katz, Sr. Captain

The Scouts had their hands full on Saturday with an undefeated and very talented Elk Grove. Throughout the first half the play was very even with both teams possessing the ball but nothing landed in the back of the net. When the second half started both teams were eager to get the first goal. Midway through the second half Carly Hoke firmly passed a perfect ball across the mouth of the goal where Catherine Traut slid to beat her defender to place the ball in the back of the net. Less than 90 seconds later we got caught on our heels when Elk Grove was in the offensive third and finished a ball in front of the goal. To round out the ninety minutes the Scouts had many opportunities to put the game away but did not finish. In the over time period Elk Grove got the first two shots off where Liz Clark had to come off her line and make saves. The Scouts were in offensive mode, the whole over time period, when Allie Danneker passed the ball in the middle to Abby Shipp who took the perfect first touch to set herself up for a laser

which was placed past the Elk Grove keeper. The Scouts defense played extremely well limiting a very talented Elk Grove offense to only one goal.

4-12-2012

Abby Shipp, sr. Captain

We were able to come up with a win on Thursday against a tough Wheaton Warrenville South team. In the first half, we possessed the ball very well, but could not finish our chances. It wasn't until the second half when sophomore, Mackenzie Mick got a rebound off a corner and buried it into the back of the net. Our next goal came when Kali Polich received the ball inside the box and slotted it over to Catherine Traut who placed it perfectly in the bottom right corner. Wheaton came back strong and scored a goal with ten minutes left in the game to make it 2-1. They continued to have relentless pressure, but we were able to hold on for the win. We are looking forward to play such a great team as Elk Grove on Saturday.

4-10-2012

Catherine Traut, Sr. Captain

The Scouts faced a very competitive and aggressive Fenwick team with a strong wind coming into play throughout the game. Fenwick helped the Scouts find what we have been missing since spring break. They brought out the talented play in each of our players that seems to have been hiding in our past two games. The possession seemed to be equal between the two teams until Abby Shipp got the ball that she had been looking for in the middle. Being offensively aggressive, Abby dribbled the ball through countless Fenwick defenders and shot a rocket into the back of the net. The Scouts stayed strong and shut down most of Fenwick's opportunities after that. Not long after the first goal, Mackenzie Adams one touched the ball out wide to Abby Shipp who took on the defense to the end line and crossed the ball to Carly Hoke, who had good positioning by the goal and slotted it away. Both teams played well, but the Scouts were able to keep the majority of play on Fenwick's half. Lake Forest was led with outstanding play by Abby Shipp and Mackenzie Mick the entire game. The Scouts will play Wheaton-Warrenville South on Thursday for the second round in the Pepsi Showdown. They beat us two years ago in the Pepsi Showdown and we are looking forward to a good game.

4-3-2012

Marina Katz, Sr. Captain

Coming into the season losing 15 graduating players, it was obvious that the new girls trying out had big shoes to fill. After just a couple of games, the girls have proved themselves and have gone above and beyond our expectations. We have added a lot of depth to our team and we are looking forward to see everyone's contributions and progression as the season continues. We have a relatively young team being that 9 of the 20 girls are freshman and sophomores. Their dedication along with the returning players experience has helped our preseason run smoothly. With each game and practice our team continues to grow together and work as a whole. We are looking forward to the season ahead!

Lake Zurich

4-8-2012

Beth Schleich

If you were to look at our roster, you would see a variety of players of all sorts of ages—from freshmen to seniors. While other schools may see this as our weakness, I believe that this diversity is what makes us not only a list of names on a roster but a collective, striving force on the soccer field. My team is extremely excited to get out on the field and start playing competitive soccer against some of the best teams in the area. I'd like to thank Pepsi Showdown for inviting Lake Zurich High School Varsity Soccer to this tournament and I wish good luck to all the teams participating. Lets go Bears!

Lane Tech

4-3-2012

Vianey Hernandez

We think that we have the potential to compete with all teams, as we've proven that we can compete with suburban schools, and we look to make a name for ourselves outside the city. Our key to success is playing with a confident mentality, making every game our best game and taking advantage of our strengths. Participating in the Pepsi Showdown is exciting, because we get to compete with great teams while having fun in this well-known tournament.

Lincoln-Way North

4-18-2012

Kristi Cesario

During the past two games Lincoln-Way North has had success in the Pepsi Showdown. On Thursday we faced Plainfield Central at our own field. In the first half, we were able to score two goals, one off of a long throw in near their net. We kept the score at a solid 2-0 until the end of the game and were pleased with the win. In Schaumburg at the actual Pepsi Showdown fields, we were up against St. Ignatius. St. Ignatius handed us a loss two years ago that knocked us out of the championship bracket, we were ready to take revenge. Though the game was physical, we battled through it and ended up on top with a score of 4-0. Though we've done better in the last two games, we still have hard games ahead of us this Thursday and Saturday and are ready to compete.

4-12-2012

Kristi Cesario

Lincoln-Way North is excited to be back in the Pepsi Showdown for the third consecutive year. It's a great experience playing against quality girls soccer programs that we wouldn't get the chance to compete with otherwise. We were hoping to be able to make it further than our two previous years in the tournament and hope to possibly be contenders to play in the championship at Toyota Park, but our efforts were foiled against Wheaton. In a 3 to 1 match, our team actually played very skillfully and well. Our one goal was scored by Rita Craven, a senior, early on in the second half. Though we had plenty of other chances, we did not take advantage on our opportunities to put the ball in the back of the net. It just goes as a learning

experience that proves that all the game comes down to is being able to materialize at the right times. We will continue to be competitive against Plainfield Central tonight at 4:30, and hopefully adding another win to our season.

Lockport

4-14-2012

Lexi Cozzi

In our second Pepsi Showdown game of the tournament, we came out hard against Lake Zurich. We were able to come up with a win from a long and intense game. First half, it was an even game between Lockport and Lake Zurich. At times we were able to keep possession of the ball and bring it down the field, but could not finish. With Lake Zurich receiving a goal right before the half ended, we had to stay confident and get it back. In the second half, we were able to get the goal back from a cross on the ground and buried it in the bottom corner. The score at 1-1, we had to go into two over times for golden goal. With no one scoring, it resulted in a shootout with Lockport making more goals than Lake Zurich. Having such a tough and intense game with Lake Zurich, we are excited to play against Plainfield North.

4-9-2012

Lexi Cozzi

With having a tough and aggressive game on Tuesday, we pulled through with a 2-0 victory. Knowing that we were facing a quality team we knew that we had to come out hard and give it our all. The score being 0-0 at the first half, we had many chances and 1-v-1 plays but could not finish them. After seeing the score at 0-0 we knew that we had to take it up a notch and put it away as soon as possible. After being patient and keeping our composer up top, we put two quality goals in. By getting the first goal, we connected passes and sent it wide for a great cross on the ground and while making a run to it we finished it. With a great corner, we got to it in the air with a head and put it away far post for our second goal. Also with having our defenders and goalie stay confident in the back, they helped with a shutout for the team and stopped some great plays by the Hawks. Our goal is to keep getting better every day and to build off of it for future games. We look forward to our next challenge against Lake Zurich witch should be a great match. Go Porters!

4-9-2012

Lexi Cozzi

Lockport expects great things to happen through the Pepsi Showdown Tournament and 2012 season. We are excited to compete against some of the top programs in the state and show that Lockport is talented, competitive, and plays with a true passion for the game. We are honored and pumped to play in the Pepsi Showdown and we will leave it all on the field and are proud to represent the south suburbs and the SWSC in this prestigious tournament. While we realize the competition is strong, if we can play together and as a unit, we think we just might open some eyes in the next two weeks. Good luck to all the teams and see ya on the field.

Loyola Academy

4-23-2012

Corey Burns, JR Defender

Champions two years in a row! Our game at Toyota Park on Sunday against Lake Forest was a great game by both teams. Lake Forest was a very tough opponent and it was even throughout the entire match. Both teams had dangerous attacks that almost lead to goals, but the keepers on both teams made excellent saves to keep the score 0-0. Then, once again, senior Colleen McShane saved the day for the Ramblers! With only 4 minutes left, sophomore Lia Baldo placed a perfect ball for Colleen to finish one touch. Her looping ball went over the keeper and straight into the net! After that, Lake Forest put the pressure on and never gave up, but we were able to hold them until the end. Lake Forest is a great team and we wish them the best in the rest of their season!

4-19-2012

Corey Burns, JR Defender

Our game on Saturday against New Trier was a very even match-up. The first half was a draw as both teams had dangerous attacks but could not finish anything. Senior Colleen McShane changed that once the second half began. Sophomore Lia Baldo, returning from an injury, passed the ball to Sophomore Tori Iatarola who fed Colleen a great pass. Colleen shot the ball in the upper right hand corner to give us a 1-0 lead. Our final goal came when senior captain Meeghan Smith was on a break away and was fouled in the box. Tori made the PK to make the score 2-0. New Trier never gave up and came at us hard for the rest of the game. Junior keeper Brittany San Roman had to make great saves to keep the shutout. Both teams played great and we can't wait to meet them again on the field. Our journey continues with the semi-final game on Saturday against Metea Valley. "Own the Moment" Ramblers!

4-13-2012

Corey Burns, JR Defender

We played a great game against Hersey, our toughest opponent yet. Our defensive line, consisting of senior captain Annie Manganaro, junior Corey Burns, junior Jill Stevens, freshman Katie Taylor, and sophomore Elle Zadina, was able to stop Hersey's great offensive attackers. Senior captain Caroline Zadina, senior Colleen McShane, and sophomore Tori Iatarola did a great job of controlling the play in the middle of the field and creating multiple attacks on the wings. Our two goals were scored by sophomore Margaret Walker and senior captain Meeghan Smith. Margaret used her skill to get a great shot off for a 1-0 lead early in the game. Meeghan was in the right spot to finish Tori's cross for a 2-0 lead. As our journey continues, we are looking forward to a great game against New Trier on Saturday!

4-11-2012

Corey Burns, JR Defender

Only a couple of days after spring break, we were able to come up with a win on Tuesday against a tough opponent Warren. Freshman Katie Taylor rocketed a shot in from outside the 18 with her left foot to get her first goal of the season and the first goal of the game. Our next goal came from senior captain Meeghan Smith, who has just returned from an injury. She

proved herself ready to play when she used her speed to blow by the defense, beat the keeper, and get a nice shot off. Our next two goals came back-to-back. Senior captain Anne Manganaro got her head on the ball off a corner from sophomore Tori Iatarola for a 3-0 lead. Minutes later, Sierra Klucikowski scored off of a rebound for our final goal (4-0). This win was a great start to our journey and we are ready to “own the moment” when we play against another tough opponent Hersey on Thursday.

4-9-2012

Corey Burns, JR Defender

We are extremely excited to have this opportunity to play in the Pepsi Showdown Tournament again. Coming back with our experience last year of not only playing at Toyota Park, but winning at Toyota Park, challenges our team to repeat our success. Even though we lost 10 amazing seniors, we are reloading, not rebuilding, with great players. Our team may be a young team, but we certainly have the talent and heart to compete with the top teams in the state of Illinois. We have proven ourselves a strong team so far, being 8-0-1 three weeks into this season. Every game and every practice has led us to these next two weeks. We are ready to “own the moment!”

Lyons

4-10-2012

Mackie Furlong

Today, Tuesday April 10th, we played a talented Lane Tech team and came out victorious with a score of four to zero. The four goals were scored by Sarah Mazur (senior), Abbie Pasquinelli (junior), Audrey Anfield (junior), and Emily Lagne (sophomore). We had to alter our play of game a little bit due to Lane Tech's strong center of the field; forcing us to spread the field more and use our outside midfielders, rather than just playing the game down the middle of the field. Every one of our players contributed in this win, allowing us to continue on with this tournament in hopes of winning it all. We hope to win our conference game on Wednesday, April 11th to add to our confidence when we take on yet another strong team for the Pepsi Showdown on Thursday, April 12th. Good luck to every other team competing in this tournament!

4-5-2012

Mackie Furlong

We are so honored and excited to be a part of the Pepsi Showdown Tournament again this year. Having experienced all that we did last year, making it to Toyota Park and finishing second in this tournament, just motivates us that much more to play our hardest and succeed this year. Even though we lost a few key seniors we have also added strong new players to help improve our team as we move forward with our season. We will continue to strive to do our best to play together as a unit knowing that no one person can win on their own. We are training hard to hopefully start the tournament on a positive note as we take on Lane Tech this upcoming Tuesday.

Maine South

4-15-2012

Morgan Faley

After the first week of the Pepsi Showdown, Maine South is 1-1-1.

After a tough loss to Lockport, we bounced right back and were able to defeat Mundelein 3-0 on Thursday. Although we started the game off a little shaky, we soon found our rhythm and were able to put 3 balls in the back of the net. We moved the ball very well and keep the pressure on throughout the entire game. The Hawks were very energized by this win. On Saturday, we played Plainfield Central. We went up 1-0 during the first half, but could not seem to finish the ball after that initial goal. Although we seemed to be on the opposing team's half most of the game, we let in a goal in the final minutes of the second half. Although a tie was a disappointing outcome, especially after our win on Thursday, we have accepted it. No team is perfect. We have used this game as motivation to win our future Pepsi games. We intend to come out thirsty for a win on Thursday. We will not let one disappointing result keep us down.

4-11-2012

Morgan Faley

Although we did not come out with a "W" after our first game against Lockport, the Maine South Hawks are not going to give up. The Lockport team proved to be a very competitive opponent. We didn't have one of our best games of the season, but we kept fighting until the end. The Hawks have been using this frustrating loss as a learning experience.

We noted what things went wrong during the game and fixed them in order to come out as strong as possible against Mundelein on Thursday.

This upcoming game is sure to be an intense match, but the Hawks are ready to bring on the fire and hope to come out victorious. We will continue to fight through every game, and hope to finish this week with 2 wins under our belt. Go Hawks!

4-9-2012

Morgan Faley

Maine South is stoked to be playing in the Pepsi Showdown again this year. We are determined to do well and aim to stay in the winner's bracket as long as possible. Although we are not ranked, we intend to shock people and turn heads with the competitive drive of our soccer team. We have been working hard throughout the season and have been showing tremendous improvements in every game. Despite losing many key seniors, our team is better than ever with the great mix of both new and returning players that make up the excellent chemistry we have formed among all the players. We are prepared to play tough teams and intend to work 120% to earn the "W" and hopefully advance as far as possible in this challenging tournament. Get ready Pepsi Showdown, because the Hawks are on the hunt!

Marian

4-8-2012

Cecily Strezo

Our week of games didn't exactly turn out as planned, but overall we are happy with the outcome. Our first game on Tuesday, against Plainfield Central, ended in a 2-1 loss for us. It was a well fought game from both teams. Our goalkeeper, Sarah Sieracki, did a fantastic job in the net, providing us with crucial saves that kept the score close. We played our hardest, but we just lacked the offense needed to win the game. Congrats to Plainfield Central for playing a hard and well fought game, and good luck throughout the rest of the tournament. Our second game on Thursday, against University High, ended in a 2-0 win for us. We played extremely hard and capitalized on the opportunities we had in front of the net. Our defense was solid and played extremely well. They kept the shots on goal to a minimum and really controlled the field. Offense, also, did extremely well on Thursday. We kept the ball under control, and kept the game simple. By communicating, making "off the ball" runs, passing to feet, and really just playing as a team, we managed to create many scoring chances that allowed us to get the W. The goals scored by Debo Akinsanya and Hailey Losselyong were great finishes and really a team effort. Both plays started from the defense and made it all the way to the back of the net. As captain of the team, I was very proud of the performance we had on Thursday. We would like to thank University High for playing such a well fought and tough game, you all were very tough opponents. We wish University High good luck for the rest of their tournament. We are looking forward to our final game on Saturday and hope that we can have the same outcome as we did on Thursday.

4-8-2012

Cecily Strezo

Our team is really excited to be in the showdown this year. This is the first time we will be in the tournament and we are all very nervous and excited about being a part of it. Our goal throughout the tournament is to give 110% in every game. We know it will be tough since a few of our starters will be on vacation, but we are willing to take on the challenge. Our team is still determined to win and hopefully we can accomplish that. We will give everything we have during this tournament and I am excited to see how our games will play out.

Mundelein

4-3-2012

We are so honored and excited to be a part of such a prestigious tournament and excited to be playing our first game against a really great Hersey team. This year Mundelein team is composed of very young players. With a lot of new faces added to the roster, we have a lot of experience and talent on this team. We work hard at bringing the best out of each other. Although we have a new coach and a lot of new players we have made a lot of progress in the last couple weeks. A lot of the girls on the roster, I have had the opportunity to play with during travel. One thing about our team is we have a lot of passion for the game and that's what brings the competitiveness. However, we had a slow start at the beginning of the season, our recent trip to South Carolina during spring break, we were able to pull 2 wins and left on a positive

note. We are training hard and really looking forward to a great test against Hersey, which will be a good measuring stick for us to see how we are progressing and hopefully staying in the mix with some top teams advancing in the Pepsi Tournament. We hope to keep the momentum going and do well during the Pepsi Showdown. Best of luck to the other team!

New Trier

4-12-2012

Aly Marzonie

Tuesday's win against Oak Park didn't come easy. In the first half we underestimated them as a team, they came out strong and with the mindset that this was their game. Thrown back a little, we were taken away from our game and reverted back to how we don't want to play. After calming down we possessed a little here and there, creating and resulting in a goal late in the half. It wasn't the prettiest but a goals and goal. The second half we knew what we had to do: Match their physicality and exceed their urgency. Off of our heels, we started to ding the ball around rewarding us to score early. We maintained our pressure and played the way we all know we can. Oak Park challenged us, they are a great team which made up a great game. We hope them the best of luck with the rest of their season! Tonight we take on Jacobs. Ready for anything, we are excited and expecting nothing but a competitive game.

Here comes the Boom.

4-9-2012

Aly Marzonie

The New Trier Trevians are really excited to play in another great Pepsi Showdown Tournament this year. With the ultimate goal of winning the final game at Toyota Park, all the returning teams understand what an honor it is to play in this great tournament. Returning nine varsity players this season along with a host of great additions to our roster, we will be vying for the title. Last year we were a very strong, defensively minded team that had a young but talented offense. This year we are more balanced and more diversified. With 3 returning defensive starters and an offensive attack that has shown success in each game, we are a different team at 7-0. We are hopeful that we can put together a strong performance on both ends of the field and find the back of the net early and often with our new but hungry team.

Here comes the Boom.

Niles North

4-12-2012

Stephanie Arias

In spring of 2011, Niles North Varsity Soccer won first in conference against schools like Deerfield and Glenbrook North. This year our record shows struggles as we experiment with formations, positions and competition. Despite our loses, the team continues to work hard to improve our style of play and overall record. Our starting line-up ranges from returning varsity,

all-conference players to skillful freshman. The girls also welcome new head coach Paul Elkins, who has done an excellent job adjusting to a new team. Although Niles North has had many moral victories, they are never completely satisfying. Given the privilege to play in such a large tournament, the Vikings are prepared to battle for victories. Niles North hopes to compete against highly-respected teams and win by over-working the opponent and capitalizing on every opportunity. After a defeat by Warren, Niles North hopes to improve against Young on Thursday.

Oak Park River Forest

4-9-2012

Katy Oldach and Renata Voci

This season marks the beginning of a new team. Not only do we have a brand new coaching staff, but many young players have joined our family. Starting anew has been a challenge, but one we've risen to with heart, dedication, and perseverance. Our new coaches bring experience, and from beginning of the season we have already improved tremendously as soccer players. Game experience has given us opportunities to improve as a whole, and we are ready to take on these opportunities.

We are thrilled to play in the Pepsi Showdown so we can showcase our new team. Since this tournament is single elimination, it provides great practice for our team to simulate playoffs, which can be a high stress environment, especially for a young team. As we continue through our season, we are learning, growing, and ready to take on the rest of our season!

Oswego

4-9-2012

Kendall Craig, Captain

Oswego Panthers vs. Elk Grove Grenadiers

The Panthers took a tough loss against the Grenadiers. It was a good battle, and the Panthers kept on fighting. The goal for the Panthers was scored by Bridgett Leverich. It is time for the Panthers to regroup and get ready to come out Thursday April 12th and play hard. LET'S GO PANTHERS!!!

4-8-2012

Kendall Craig, Captain

It was great to kick off the Pepsi Showdown with a win. The Panthers played well from the defense to the offense. We (the panthers) were able to connect passes all the way up the field and put the ball in the net. Goals were scored by Krissy Klingbiel, Bridgett Leverich, Erin Apolzan (2), Kaylan Mills, and Hunter Coppes. There was a solid performance by the defense as well. It was great to be able to host Joliet West, and they played a physical game. The Panthers' next game will be against Elk Grove on Monday April 9th at 6pm. GO PANTHERS!!!

Payton

4-13-2012

Meredith Leon

Although Payton was defeated 3-0 against Oak Park River Forest, it was a hard-fought match. The two teams played aggressively and physically, while maintaining good sportsmanship. It was a tight game at the end of the first half; OPRF was up 1-0. Payton came into the second half with confidence, hoping that they could turn the game around. However, the end result was not in their favor. "We put up a good fight, but things just weren't clicking for our team today," said sweeper Goethals of Payton.

Plainfield Central

4-9-2012

Captains: Brigid Hanely, Britney Lenza, Lauren Kulaga

This year we feel like we have a strong team. We are a close team and it shows on the field, we work well together and we will give it all we've got. We keep good attitudes no matter what the outcome and will use every game to help us get better. Our season has started out good and we're really excited for the challenge of the tournament. It will be a good test of our skills against these solid teams that we will be playing. But we are confident we will do well in this tournament as we have been working hard at practice to get us to where we need to be physically on the field. We are going into this tournament looking for wins, but we plan on having fun throughout this experience.

Plainfield East High School

4-16-2012

Ally Togliatti

Starting out strong, in the first half of our game against Lake Zurich, the Bengals came out with a nice pace and finished the half winning 2-1. It was in this portion of the game that we were concise with our passes and continued to do what we had fixed from our Metea Valley match. However, as the second half progressed, Lake Zurich began to gain possession of the ball. Several Lake Zurich shots found their way to the back of the net and we found ourselves on the losing side of a 4-2 game. For our next game, we need to sustain the effort we put forth in the first half of this match for the remaining 80 minutes.

4-13-2012

Allison Gahafer

Yesterday we played St. Ignatious and won our first game in the Pepsi Showcase! We came out strong, and fixed our mistakes from the Matea game. We got 2 awesome goals in the first half, and a 3rd in the second half. Although we let 2 in, we played a strong overall game. For our next game we want to focus on consistency and come out strong again! Go Bengals!

4-12-2012

Ally Togliatti, Bri Bernholdt, Allison Gahafer

Although tonight did not go exactly as planned for us Bengals, we fought hard against Metea Valley. Coming up with a handful of opportunities, it was evident that we were not going to go down without a fight. Unfortunately, the Mustangs prevailed. However, from this game, we have learned some more important fundamentals that will aid our team in the progression of our program- such as defensive positioning and offensive tactics. Now, as we move on from this loss and prepare to face St. Ignatius, we will carry with us this newly gained knowledge, seeking to move on successfully throughout the remainder of the showdown.

4-2-2012

Ally Togliatti, Bri Bernholdt, Allison Gahafer

Being a relatively new school, this is a wondrous achievement to be in the Pepsi Showdown. Having grown tremendously over the past four years, we hope to continue moving forward and excel in our style of play. Throughout the tournament, our team's main goal will be to stay focused and try our hardest, as that is a crucial part to our success. We are thrilled to be a part of the showdown, and hope to do our best and come out with a win.

Plainfield North

4-9-2012

Ashley Auble

We are very excited to have to opportunity to be able to participate in the Pepsi Tournament again this year. After losing a tough game in penalty kicks to Loyola last year, our team is more than excited to be able to compete again. Only losing four seniors, we have been able to fill those spots and still have talented and smart players in every position. We know that if we play our game and work together, we can accomplish anything. Our team is very close, and most of us have been playing together since we can remember. We have five sets of sisters, also helping our team chemistry.

This year, our team expects to do well. Together, we can accomplish anything. This is our year to prove ourselves, and we plan to do just that. We know that we are going to have some very tough competition and that no game will be handed to us-we will have to earn each and every game. Good luck to all of the other teams. Go Tigers!

St. Ignatius

4-22-20112

Emma Brown

Game 5 of Pepsi Showdown

On Saturday, the Wolfpack got their first win of the Pepsi Showdown. They defeated Joliet West 4-1. The offensive line looked great and created multiple opportunities to score. Noreen Walsh, Maura Walsh, and Katie Johnson scored goals. The back line did an excellent job of keeping Joliet from shooting on goal and keeping the game on the offensive half. The girls did a

great job and loved playing in the Pepsi Showdown. The team loved the opportunity to play against other high schools that they don't play in the regular season.

4-20-2012

Emma Brown

Game 4 of the Pepsi Showdown (4/19/12)

The Wolfpack tied 0-0 against Hinsdale South. The Wolfpack outplayed the other team for the entire 80 minutes. Both the defensive and offensive lines played excellent. The girls were able to keep up with Hinsdale's speed and intercepted many balls from their opponent. The team was able to connect passes all across the field and communicated well with one another. Although the Wolfpack was unable to find the back of the net, they felt accomplished after the game and are ready for their final match of the Pepsi Showdown this Saturday.

4/15/12

Emma Brown

Wolfpack vs. Lincoln Way North

Unfortunately, the Wolfpack lost again on Saturday 4-0. The team struggled in the first 20 minutes of the half; this led Lincoln Way North to score 2 goals. The team needed to regroup and come out into the second half with the desire to get the goals back. The Wolfpack kept the ball in the attacking half for most of the 2nd half. Toward the end of the 2nd half the Wolfpack faltered and Lincoln Way North was able to score another 2 goals. Although the Wolfpack hasn't had a successful tournament, they are determined to fix their flaws in order to be more victorious in their upcoming season.

4/13/12

Emma Brown

Wolfpack vs. Plainfield

Wolfpack suffered another tough loss against Plainfield, score 3-2. The team was unable to score in the first half, while Plainfield was able to slide 2 balls through our defensive back and score. After the girls reevaluated and refocused their energy at halftime, the team was able to score 2 goals in the second half. The Wolfpack played much better in the second half and kept their heads up even while down. The Wolfpack looks forward to playing their final game of the Pepsi Showdown this weekend.

4/10/12

Emma Brown

Wolfpack vs. Stevenson

The Wolfpack suffered a tough loss against Stevenson High School. The final score was 2-0, but the score does not reflect the way the Wolfpack competed. The team outplayed Stevenson for the entire 80 minutes, but the Wolfpack was outscored. Stevenson had a penalty kick in the first 7 minutes of play that momentarily delayed the Wolfpack's momentum. After the Wolfpack recovered from this minor setback, they maintained offensive control for the remainder of the half. The Wolfpack came into the 2nd half determined to even the score. Unfortunately, the Wolfpack was unable to score for the rest of the game and Stevenson was

able to sneak a ball through the defense. The Wolfpack should have their heads held high and feel proud about the way they played today. They will definitely play to win in the coming games this week.

4-9-2012

Emma Brown

The Wolfpack is looking forward to their first game of the Pepsi Showdown. This young team has bonded during the off-season to become a tight knit group of friends. We are a strong team that has overcome a lot in the previous months and can't wait to show off our skills during the coming week. This week we are very mindful of the talent we are facing, but we guarantee we will put up a tough fight for the full 80 minutes of each game. The key to our success is the trust developed within our team and the being able to transition across the field. We operate as one unit and have an awesome ability of communication. We are very excited to compete in the Pepsi Showdown. We are looking forward to face teams in the Chicago area that we usually aren't scheduled to play. This tournament is a great opportunity to expand our playing abilities against talented teams.

Stevenson

4-15-2012

Olivia Whalen

Sadly, Stevenson's run at the cup ended in a tough game against the tourney's #1 seed, a very good team, the Metea Valley Mustangs. The two teams seemed really well matched and credit the win to the Mustangs for making the most of their chances by scoring on their first two tries midway through the first half with some very well placed goals. This was particularly surprising since a stubborn Stevenson defense rarely allowed the Mustangs into their defensive third and turned back most runs quickly. Stevenson fired nine shots in the first half alone yet, as will happen unless they find the back of the net, they don't do much good. With about 2 ½ goals per game this season and lots of quality tries, it was certainly a frustrating afternoon. .

Unlike the York game, where our Pat's traded goals in a very physical game before winning with a golden goal in the 9th minute of overtime, it seemed as if we were in control through most of the first half and were certain that a two goal deficit could be over come but it was not to be. Good luck to the Mustangs the rest of the way and we hope to meet again in the IHSA tournament J.

4-12-2012

Jenna Weiner

Stevenson 5 - York 4 (OT). The Stevenson Patriots are incredibly grateful to make it to the "Elite 8" in such a prestigious tournament. The Patriots had a rough start suffering a 1-0 deficit early on. Soon after York's goal, Junior Hanna Levi responded by burying one in the back of the net off of a beautiful assist by Senior Katie Krejsa. Despite a back and forth game by both teams, Stevenson never gave up. Olivia Whalen recorded a goal off of a through ball from Junior Ali Olson. Krejsa went on to finish her ninth goal of the season from a pass by Levi. The Patriots

were down 4-3 with just minutes left of regulation time when a foul was called outside of the 18-yard box. Junior Jenna Weiner took the kick placing it on Senior Olivia Whalen's head, resulting in a spectacular goal to tie the game in the final minutes. Going into overtime the Patriots had no doubt they would put York away. In the first half of overtime Jenna Weiner took another free kick from 30 yards out and buried the ball near post to win the game. York played a hard-fought game; however, the Patriots won the match with perseverance and Patriot heart.

4-10-2012

Katie Krejsa

Stevenson 2 - St. Ignatius 0. This is Stevenson's third year in the Pepsi Showdown. Especially after tonight's win against St. Ignatius, the Patriots hope to do well in the tournament. Senior Katie Krejsa scored both goals for the Patriots. In the first half, junior Jenna Weiner served a beautiful pass to Krejsa allowing her to advance into the 18 yard box and draw a foul. Krejsa scored the first goal on a penalty kick, and the second goal off an assist from junior Hanna Levi in the second half.

Sycamore

4-4-2012

As one of, if not the, smallest school in this tournament, we are still hoping to make a big mark. Last year we were 2-2, winning our first game against Oswego, but then lost to Huntley. With a group of really close seniors and some new younger talent, we hope to get past Jacobs in the first round and show a little of what Sycamore is made of.

Hope everyone is staying healthy and let's here it for nice weather...no driving snow/sleet storms like last year!!

U-High

4-26-2012

Lexie Barber

To finish off the Pepsi Showdown this year, the Maroons faced two tough teams, Lincoln Way North on Thursday and Mundelein High School on Saturday. The maroons struggled against future Division One players, and two concussions of maroon players within the week, but what it all came down to was sheer persistence. Thursday we benefitted from strong goalkeeping done by Senior, Brenda Benitez. The highlight of Brenda's game was an extraordinary save, where a Lincoln Way Senior, headed to play D1 ball at Valparaiso University, sent a bullet to the right side of the net. Brenda stuck out her foot and the ball shot 50 feet in the air before being safely collected by Benitez. Cathy Ludwig, Senior, interrupted a lot of plays and consistently put in 100% of her effort. Gia Rowley, Senior, and Audrey Hart, Junior, also had very strong games back in defense and as outside midfielders, and were great at staying with their marks and shutting down attacks.

While the score didn't reflect our effort, Saturday's game was truly a triumph for U-High. We lost a few goals earlier in the first half, but as the second half rolled around, and one of our captains, Senior Sydney Scarlata, returned from a college visit, our momentum picked up significantly. Only one goal was scored in the second half by Mundelein, and a lot of the reason why we held them so solidly was due to our strong line of defense. Julia Utset, sophomore, worked very hard to keep Maroon possession with help from Audrey Hart and Eleanor Schuttenberg, also a sophomore. Despite the loss, the Maroons feel confident they can carry over their solid second half play into their upcoming games against formidable opponents.

4-12-2012

Lexie Barber

Our Varsity Girls soccer team is very excited to be a part of the Pepsi Showdown this spring! As one of the few Single-A teams in the tournament, we are ready to face intense competition and hopefully make some serious improvements to our game before the rest of our season gets into full swing. This past Monday, April 9, the tournament began at our home field versus Whitney Young Magnet High School. Whitney had some great players, and while this game ended in a loss for Lab, we certainly put up a good fight. Ten minutes in, Whitney sent a shot into the upper left corner of the net, just grazing past Lab goalkeeper Brenda Benitez's fingertips. This season is Brenda's first time playing soccer, and she went through a quick crash course on goalkeeping after freshman goalie, Kasey Kozak, sprained her wrist. Kasey did not play in Monday's game, but Brenda Benitez made many great saves, including a tricky ball coming in from a corner kick that bounced from several different players before Brenda intercepted it. Ivana Jureta, freshman, also played a very solid game as an outside Midfielder. Several give-and-go plays were made between her and senior captain Katie Klespies. Klespies also made many runs as central forward, including a ball sent in by junior Audrey Hart, leading to a beautiful shot from Klespies that unfortunately went just outside of the post. The first half ended with two Whitney goals within a few minutes of each other, but the lopsided score did not keep Lab from bringing all they had to the second half. The score was kept at 3-0 for the whole second half, and a lot of the credit belongs to Lab's strong wall of defensemen. Senior Gia Rowley had an exceptional game playing outside fullback along with senior Sarah Schacht, a captain and our sweeper.

Warren Township

4-23-2012

Rachel Walz, Karly Moe, and Amanda Macubia

We hit our stride, played to our potential against Marian. Glad to come out of the Pepsi Showdown with a winning record. We knocked 6 into the back of the net and managed to defend a shut out. We had a cohesiveness that was lacking earlier in the tournament.

Thank you to Pepsi and Muscle Milk for the opportunity to partake in this event. It is an excellent opportunity to play teams that we normally would not be able to. We look forward to years to come!

4-14-2012

Karly Moe, Amanda Macubia, and Rachel Walz

It was a tough game against Lane Tech High School. We decided to sport some of our school's old soccer jerseys along with the sweatbands we all used to wear in U8 and U9. We started the game off a little slow and Lane scored within the first few minutes. We didn't let that stop us and came back with a few opportunities, but just struggled to put them in the back of the net. We ended the first half down by 1. We weren't going to let the score stop us, and we had a quick opportunity in the second half. Moe took it down the side and crossed it to Reyes who scored to even the game at 1-1. The goal was disallowed as Reyes was called offside. Then our goalie made a great save but hit the girl in the process and unfortunately got a red card. We had to play with 10 players for the last twenty five minutes of the game. Even with all of these misfortunes we still finished the game and are looking forward to putting this one behind us! We are excited to take on Payton High School this Saturday.

4-11-2012

Captains: Rachel Walz, Amanda Macuiba, and Karly Moe

On Monday, April 9th, we competed against Niles North High School for the play-in game for the Pepsi Showdown. We came out strong and scored early by Kenzie Verheyen in the first 7 minutes. Niles was right back in it with a goal a few moments later.

We fought hard, neck and neck, until Niles North scored again just before half. Our coach put some pep in our step as we strutted onto the field for the second half.

We came out strong and fast; three quarters through the game and we popped another one in as well. It did not come easy, but soon after the second goal for us, we scored again on a fierce semi-break away by Lexi Reyes.

In the last minute of the game, we had a free kick about 35 yards out. Rachel Walz struck the ball and it went into the goal. The final to the game against Niles North High School was 4-2 with Warren as the victors.

The game against Loyola Academy, on Tuesday the 10th, proved to be a onerous one for us. Despite Loyola's record, all of the girls stepped on the field with a positive attitude only the Warren Girls could muster.

Our first and most difficult trial was finding the field. After a few missed turns, though, we arrived, with hardly enough time to warm up. We used our limited time to physically and mentally prepare for the challenge ahead. Then we began, face to the wind. Defensively, we did pretty well. Their forwards played well, and had good foot skills, but our defenders were able to stop their attacks numerous times. Most of the breakaways were stopped short, but the Loyola Players still managed to put some in the net. The first goal was caused by a series of unfortunate events. One of Loyola's forwards sneaked in a cross through the penalty box, and one of the defenders tried to block it, but the ball hit her

shin and headed towards the goal. Our keeper had a save, but it deflected, and another Loyola girl anticipated the opportunity, and put it in the net.

Not all hope was lost, though. We still managed some attack ourselves after Katelyn McDermott had a breakaway and a shot. The keeper was prepared, though, and no goal came of the play.

We continued to fight for the ball, and minutes ticked away without Loyola putting in another, until the end of the half, when one of their breakaways came to fruition.

After a half time talk from coach, we regained our spirits, and awaited to show them our combative spirit. We challenged, we fought, and we kept pace, but we still ended up with no goals. Despite this, Loyola still had less chances to score than the first half. The ball spent more time in the middle of the field rather than near the box.

Unfortunately, the last few minutes of the half did not end well. Our energy started to deplete, and two quick goals were scored against us, ending at 4-0. Keeping our heads up, we shook hands with the other players.

We're not letting this dismay us. Trials and tribulations are inevitable parts of soccer. We're ready for the next match.

4-3-2012

Amanda Macuiba

Recently, our team has been full of anticipation. We have a multitude of games approaching, and although it'll be exhausting, every single one of us is willing to put in the work, just as we have been the previous weeks.

Our current record doesn't have as many wins as we would like, but each game has been close, and after each match, we improve on something new. As a team, as well as individually, the improvement has been constant and apparent. We can all see the improvement in our movement off the ball, we can hear our better communication, and can all feel the increasing equanimity.

Another reason some of us feel more confident this year is because of our plethora of seniors. We have more than enough for a starting lineup, and most of them have been on varsity previously, and have played together for many years now. Thanks to this, our team has a really good idea of how each of their teammates' play, and that's definitely going to be an advantage on the field.

Of course, some things still need to be worked on. We make mistakes, just as any other team does, and although they sometimes seem like obstacles that are impossible to overcome, we know we can do it with the fortitude that is so prevalent on our team.

A newcomer on the team that's helping us with all of this is our coach, Ryan McCabe. We're definitely glad to have him.

The Pepsi Showdown isn't anything new to upperclassmen, and it's always been fun for us. But for the underclassmen, this is a new experience. It's a chance for them to experience a really big tournament with the school team, and as usual, playing against teams that we don't normally get to see is always really exciting.

Wheaton Warrenville South

4-9-2012

Lexi Peterson

We are extremely excited to be a part of the Pepsi Showdown this year! Our boy's side has always made a strong run in the tournament, and we are hoping to do the same. Our team has a mixture of new and old faces, but everyone brings the same fight, dedication, and skill to the field regardless of age. We are very eager for our first game against Huntley! Huntley is a great team and we are looking forward to competitive match.

York

4-12-2012

Christina Ordonez

In our first Pepsi Showdown game of the tournament, we played Plainfield Central. We came into the game knowing that they had just beaten Marian and were not a team to underestimate. We all came out very hard in the first half and ended the half with a 4-0 lead. In the second half they scored once and so did we, to make the final score 5-1 York. It was a hard fought game and we are now ready to advance and play Stevenson on Thursday. We are ready to give it our all again and come out with another win.

4-9-2012

Christina Ordonez

We have a really great team this year with a lot of talented new and returning players. Our record is 6 wins and 2 losses so far this season. We are really excited to play in the Pepsi Showdown, it's an awesome chance for us to play some teams we wouldn't normally play. Though last year we lost in the early rounds, we plan to go all the way this year!

Young

4-4-2012

Rachel Hobert

As the 2012 season rolls around, it feels like we haven't skipped a beat. With 14 returning varsity players to the girls Whitney Young soccer team, this year is looking very promising. 2012 is our year. We've shown suburban teams what we're made of beating both Hinsdale Central and Oak Park River Forest 1-0. And are currently plowing through our city league without a loss.

We are going into the Pepsi Showdown Tournament with a take no prisoners mindset. With six starting seniors, all knowing how important this last shot at the tournament is, we're giving it all we got. This is it. The last shot. And as Herb Brooks said, "If we played 'em ten times, they might win nine. But not this game. Not tonight. Tonight, we play with 'em."