

Sep. 13 Field Hockey

Nottingham dominates but can only gain a tie with Hamilton

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

Sep. 13: It wasn't hard to predict the emotions of both sides after today's scoreless tie between the Nottingham and Hamilton West field hockey teams.

"This is disappointing," said Northstars coach Jen Cicale, whose team held a 21-8 shot advantage but couldn't get a goal. "We had a lot of opportunities. This is a game we should win with the way we played."

When asked if she was happy with the tie, in which no one could score through two overtimes, Hornets coach Judy Goldstein had a slightly different reaction.

"Oh my God yes," she said. "Do you want to do the Happy Dance? I'd do a cartwheel except I'd hurt myself."

"I'm ecstatic because they've busted their butts, they worked hard. I thought we played a little too much defense today but they hung on to it. My goalie (Alicia Torres) had a couple nice saves that she couldn't clear well enough but she kept them going. The defense really held it out and did a great job today."

The tie left both teams still looking for their first win and their first goal of the season, although Nottingham had plenty of chances and nearly won it at the end before shots by Dalia Lopez and Dee Dee Augustin were saved or went wide.

"We need to work on our touch around the goal, our communication. . .and our corners aren't working for us right now, we need to practice corners," said Nottingham's Lyndsey Buckley. "But overall we're working good as a team, a lot better than we have in the past years."

Her point about the corners were well taken, as Nottingham had a 7-0 advantage in that area but could not convert. But both Buckley and Cicale, who was facing her alma mater for the first time as a head coach, still felt there were some good things to build on.

"We can definitely take some positives out of this," Buckley said.

Goldstein also saw a few positives herself.

"I was proud of my girls," she said. "Nottingham was quick, aggressive and very physical. We're not used to playing that physical kind of aggressive game, we had to adjust to that. I think we learned today, how to play a more aggressive, physical game."

The coach has been particularly happy with her defensive quartet of Torres along with freshman Audrey Manion, Kristen Turner and Elena Karmazin.

"Those four have been in connection with each other and that kept us in the game," Goldstein said. "We lost 4-0 to Princeton but three of my defensive starters were out so we struggled."

"I'm proud we held them off. Nottingham is not a wash-over team. They have some powerful front line girls that don't stop."

Buckley, a senior midfielder, feels Nottingham has been getting strong play from several players.

"Dalia Lopez was hurt last year, she's making a big difference," the veteran midfielder said. "Aisha (Torres) and Dee Dee Augustin can both get up the field with their speed, and Melissa Choe has been giving us good stickwork."

"We hope if we keep playing like this we'll get some wins. We have to keep fighting."