

Dynasty GK's in Action

27th Edition
(April 2010)

KELSEY WALTERS – April, 11 2010 – Fort Worth, TX – Staff coach and former Dynasty student, Kelsey Walters, (more affectionately known as “Wally”), was recently voted the **Defensive MVP** by her teammates and coaches at TCU. She was also awarded with the **Purple Heart Award** for



the second year in a row. After each game the team votes an MVP for that game, and then at the end of the year whoever has won the most gets the overall Purple Heart. In addition Wally also received the **Fall Academic Achievement** award along with another teammate. Getting it done on the field AND in the classroom!!! WAY TO GO WALLY! Wally's comment when asked about all her honors was, “It felt really nice to be honored by my team and coaches and was a nice surprise.”

CAROLINE STANLEY – March 6th, 2010 – Costa Rica – **CORRECTION!** In last month's edition I incorrectly reported that Caroline did not play in any of the U17 CONCACAF World Cup qualification matches. I stand corrected that Caroline did get to play the full 90 minutes in the bronze medal match versus Costa Rica. The U.S. won 6-0. Sorry Caroline!



CAROLINE CASEY – March, 2010 – Chesapeake, VA – This should have been posted in the March edition, but the ever modest Caroline failed to share her great news with me, so I am adding it into the April edition. Caroline has been a Dynasty student for 3 summers now, starting at age 13 in 2007, and will be back again this summer to make it 4 straight years! I have been fortunate to see her develop and rise from a Virginia ODP player, into the Region 1 Pool, and now she has gotten her first invite into a U15 U.S. Girl's National Team camp at the Home Depot Center. Unfortunately

she had to turn the opportunity down as she had just returned from Portugal with the Region 1 Team and couldn't afford to miss anymore school. Academics do take priority! Hopefully she will get invited into another camp in the future. In the meantime it still is a nice honor for her to have been invited.

BRITT ECKERSTROM – April 10th – 17th, 2010 – Carson, CA – Britt has had a busy spring splitting time between track and soccer. Not only has she been in the U17 US GNT pool, but she recently was called up into a U18 US GNT training camp in Carson, CA from April 10-17th.

Like a few other students I wrote about last month Britt also went to Portugal and Spain in March with the 93/94 Region 1 ODP team.

In addition to all the travel with soccer Britt has been excelling on the track this spring as well. I don't know how she finds the time?!?! In March she earned All-American honors at the Nike Indoor Nationals in Boston. She ran on a 4x200 relay team that came in 4th in the U.S! Also, at the Maryland State Indoor Championship she earned a silver medal in the 500M, and 3 gold medals in the 4x200, 4x400 and 4x800 relays. What a STUD! Look out 2010 Dynasty students...I am predicting that Britt is going to set a new record on our Beep Test... ☺



RACHEL COLLINS & LISA ARMSTRONG - April 8, 2010 – Cary, NC – Two local students of Tracy's shined in recent cross town rivalry high school game in Cary, NC. Dynasty student and senior goalkeeper Rachel Collins (photo left) of Athens Drive High School turned in a solid performance despite losing to a fellow local student and freshman goalkeeper Lisa Armstrong's Green Hope High School 1-0.

The following are excerpts from an article written by Tyler Everett in the *Cary News*.

"Falcon Girls Soccer Remains Perfect - Green Hope breaks through with game's only goal"

The Green Hope girls soccer team remained undefeated Wednesday, despite a strong performance from Athens Drive senior goalkeeper **Rachel Collins**.

Collins denied the Falcons in spectacular fashion on a number of occasions, but Green Hope junior midfielder Ashley Stokes broke through with the game's only goal with just less than 24 minutes to play. Green Hope prevailed 1-0.

Athens Drive coach Travis Seese said he was proud of Collins' performance.

"Our goalie was outstanding tonight," Seese said. "She saved us on a lot of shots. She really was great tonight, with a lot of diving saves. She played from post to post and we really could not have asked for any better effort than she gave tonight."

Collins was forced to stay active thanks to a steady barrage of shots on net by the Falcons, who Green Hope coach Bobby Peterson said maintained their focus and offensive intensity the way he has come to expect them to.

....

Though Green Hope's own goalie, freshman **Lisa Armstrong**, did not make as many saves her counterpart in the opposite net, she was perfect when she had to be in recording the shutout. Armstrong said her teammates have made it easy to ignore the fact that she is often stopping balls shot by players two and three years older than her.

"When I came on I was really nervous about being a freshman," Armstrong said. "But it doesn't feel like being a freshman on this team, because I have all these people who have supported me. One of the first things I told my parents when I came home was that one of the seniors had talked to me to ease the transition, and they are all really nice."

LAUREN ARNOLD – April 20, 2010 - Hoover, AL – Lauren Arnold is the queen of penalty kick



shootouts. Every spring for the past 3 years (for as long as I have been writing Dynasty GKs in Action) I have written an article about Lauren winning a high school game by saving a penalty kick and then stepping up to score a goal as her team's clutch 5th pk shooter. Well, she has done it again. I think she has ice running through her veins. This time she stepped up and made the final kick for Spain Park, then had to step into goal and come up with the save to win the section championship over rival Vestavia Hills 5-4, whom they had lost to earlier this season. Talk about coming up big under pressure! Oh and did I mention she was playing with 7 staples in her head from an injury in a game earlier in the week?!? That is another level! This girl THRIVES under pressure.

The following article by Wesley Hallman of the *Shelby County Reporter* gives more details from Lauren's big game:

Spain Park girls clinch section championship with win over Vestavia

HOOVER — Spain Park High School coach Robert Starr relies on senior goalkeeper Lauren Arnold's stealth hands to keep opponents off the scoreboard. In the Jaguars' final Class 6A, Section 5 match April 20th against Vestavia Hills, Starr needed Arnold's hands and her strong right leg to lead Spain Park to a section championship.

Arnold came through; as she fired a penalty kick into the net before blocking a game-tying attempt by the Rebels seconds later to give the Jaguars a 2-1 win over Vestavia Hills in a game decided by a penalty-kick shootout.

Starr expected nothing less from his star, who continues to add to her storied playing career at the school.

"That's why she's the Gatorade Player of the Year (in Alabama in 2009)," Starr said. "She's okay with the pressure."

The Clemson University signee clinched the game for the Jaguars despite playing with seven staples in her head after an injury in a game against Mountain Brook last week.

Arnold was determined to not let her team down with a section championship on the line.

"I'm supposed to make one save in a penalty-kick round," Arnold said. "I had to do my job."

Arnold's game-clinching penalty kick gave the Jaguars a 5-4 edge before her save sealed the win for the defending Class 6A champions, who improved to 18-4-2 overall.

Arnold said she was relieved the Jaguars kept Vestavia Hills out of the playoffs. The Rebels handed Spain Park one of its four losses this season.

"It's either beat Vestavia Hills now or beat them later," Arnold said. "I'm glad we did it now."

Starr said he was proud of the Jaguars' section championship.

"We feel like this is the best section in the state," Starr said. "If you win it, you've done something."