

2008 Season Recap “We Walk Together”

At one point, there were over 70 eager young Ladies penciled in for the 2008 season. This year's conditioning sessions were the hardest yet and focused on endurance. Six mile runs every Tuesday became the norm and more and more people came each week!!

This year's squad rounded out at 63 players and four managers. Sixteen field players and two keepers were selected for Varsity. We continued with two complete JV teams - JV Thunder, comprised mostly of Juniors & Seniors and JV Lightning comprised of Sophomores and Freshmen. Like last year, extra JV games with Seton LaSalle and Canevin were added to the schedule along with Serra Catholic. In all, the Thunder and Lightning team schedules consisted of a total of 28 games !!!

Senior Kathryn Waligura got JV Thunder on the board with a blistering shot in the opening pre-season game at last year's section rival Gateway. Sophomore Emma Tulsy added the clincher from a nice through ball from fellow Sophomore Emily Kennedy to seal the win at 2-0. Freshman Claire Kuszajewski recorded her first high school game/win/shutout all in the same night with a flawless game in goal. The defense was strong and staunch limiting Gateway to one lone shot on goal.

Not to be outdone, Junior Claire Geraghty notched the first Varsity goal of the pre-season just 3:30 into the night cap taking a long throw-in from Junior Blythe Young and charging through three Gators before burying the ball. Just a short eight minutes later, Sophomore Alex Shaver turned on the jets and carried the ball blazing down the right side drawing the entire Gateway defense toward her. She nonchalantly ducked a sweet pass across the goal to a trailing and full speed ahead Freshman Morgan Rodella who buried the biscuit for the first varsity goal of her brief high school career. She had just come into the game about a minute prior. The Gators managed to sneak one past Senior Goal Keeper Jackie Bissonette after she was down from making two spectacular bang bang saves. Claire again recorded the eventual game winner with a picture perfect shot to the upper left corner through the diving Keepers hands as she tried to save it, but there was no save to be had because the ball had already kissed the back of the net. A late Gateway goal gave them something to cheer about, but the game outcome was never in doubt.

It was an awesome game by everyone. A great varsity game to kick off the preseason with - very high intensity - varsity level play. It was an eye opener to a lot of the new varsity players, but Coach Mader said that he hoped it gave them a good look at what it takes to compete at that level and that they now know why we run and sprint and run and sprint and run and sprint. It was a great start and the coaching staff couldn't be happier or prouder!!

In their opening pre-season match, the Lightning struck on a rainy day at St. Paul's Seminary as they downed the Canevin Crusaders 1-0. The score was level at the half, but Sophomore Lauren DiRubbo, off a nice pass from a very hard working Sophomore Abby Marchione notched the game winner in the second half. Once again Claire Kuszajewski recorded another shutout. Not a bad start for her Freshman career. A very hard played game that saw the Eagles fight and win nearly every 50-50 ball all day long.

After a slow start, the Varsity poured it on with four goals in a 20 minute span to bury Canevin 5-1. Blythe Young had a total of four goals in the game - three for us and one for the Crusaders !!! We outshot Canevin 17-6 and totally dominated. Nice way to start the preseason. It was great having

Senior Annie Hart back too !!!! She never missed a step and was VERY involved all day!!! Regular season here we come !!

The Eagles traveled to Olympia Park on Mt. Washington for a first ever match with City League team Brashear. It didn't take long to get things going as Claire Geraghty took a low pass from Alex Shaver and scored the first goal of the 2008 season in the 10th minute. The goal would hold up as the eventual game winner as Brashear managed only one shot in the game. Alex got her first of the year off a pass from Blythe Young in the 13th minute. Just nine minutes later, Claire recorded her second off a corner kick from Freshman Shannon Haberman.

The assist was Shannon's first point in her young Varsity career. Four minutes later, Claire recorded the hat trick finishing a shot started by Alex to the low left corner. Sophomore Emily Kennedy notched her first Varsity goal to close out the first half scoring in the 31st minute. She took a masterful feed from Junior Fullback Kate Zirpoli who had made a splendid run from the back, dribbling through six Brashear Bull defenders. Annie Hart started the scoring in the 43rd minute finishing a cross from fellow Senior Fuzz Kimmich. Junior Fullback Cate Linden recorded her first point of the 08 campaign setting up Claire for her fourth of the day just one minute later. Next, Fuzz got her first of the year in the 51st minute as she followed a streaking Alex to the corner. Alex cut the ball back across the middle to a waiting Fuzz who finished the play with a score. Annie Hart recorded her second of the game benefiting from another Alex Shaver set up in the 57th minute. The assist was Alex's fourth of the game. Only three minutes later, Shannon Haberman got the first goal of her young high school varsity career as Senior Kira Eichmiller recorded the first of what would be three assists in the game. Cate Linden got on the board on the receiving end of a set up from Kira as she blasted a rocket past the helpless Keeper. Freshman Morgan Rodella, also in the first varsity game of her high school career benefitted from Kira's third helper as she finished a cross from Kira in the 68th minute. Shannon Haberman recorded her second of the game and third point of the night with the final goal of the game in the 74th minute. Cate Linden also picked up her third point with the assist to close out the scoring and the 13-0 victory season opening victory.

JV Thunder kept the train rolling with a convincing 6-0 win of their own. Senior Melissa Petitto finished a perfectly placed corner kick from Sophomore Jill Petnuch in the 3rd minute. Emily Kennedy got the first of two for the night unassisted in the 13th minute. Sophomore Emma Tulsy finished a rebound from a blocked shot by the Bull Keeper in the 37th minute. She didn't need to cover a rebound four minutes later as she and Emily Kennedy hooked up in the 41st minute. Emma finished what Emily started to give the Eagles a 4-0 lead. The two traded places in the 58th minute as Emily scored on a header from a corner kick by Emma. Senior Erica Lardieri recorded her first of the year off a corner kick from fellow Senior Chelsea Canatta in the 60th minute to close out the scoring. Freshman Claire Kuszajewski picked up her first shutout of the regular season for the Thunder.

The first game of the new section got off to a good start. The Bethel Park Black Hawks were very strong and maintained possession for most of the first half. The opening highlight of the young season was Senior Keeper Jackie Bissonette stoning Bethel's leading scorer on a PK!! What a great move that got our juices flowing!!! Alex Shaver snuck through the Black Hawk defense and streaked to the corner. As the Bethel Sweeper approached, she dropped the ball to perfectly positioned Blythe Young who launched a beautiful, curving shot to the upper corner of the net to finally get us on the board in the 22nd minute. Bethel was stunned. The onslaught continued as Bethel controlled the ball and scored the game tying goal in the 35th minute.

Again, Blythe was able to launch a shot destined for the upper corner again only to have it ring off the crossbar and down. Fortunately, Fuzz Kimmich was there waiting and buried the ball to retake the lead in the 37th minute. Bethel would tie the score in the second half and win it four minutes into overtime. We were outshot 24-8 but never gave up. It served as a wake up of just how tough the new section was going to be. We weren't in Kansas anymore !!!

Sophomore Lauren DiRubbio got the scoring for the JV Lightning's 2008 season underway finishing a pass from Freshman Allie Scolieri. The goal wasn't enough as the Lightning dropped their section opener to the Black Hawks 3-1.

Serra Catholic came to West Field to take on the Thunder. The outcome really wasn't in doubt as the Thunder outshot the Eagles 37-3 and put 5 of the 37 shots behind the Serra Keeper. Emma Tulsy

got the Thunder scoring going with a clean breakaway goal in the 8th minute. Shannon Haberman got the first of two for her in the game in the 28th minute unassisted. Senior Katie Siegfried recorded the first of two for her on the night taking a nice pass from Melissa Petitto in the 30th minute to close out the scoring in the first half. Shannon recorded her second in the 31st minute unassisted with a nice shot from the middle of the field. Katie finished the scoring with a nice set up from Emma in the 37th minute. Freshman Claire Kuszajewski picked up her second shutout for the Thunder.

The Eagles came out a little flat the next day as Thunder traveled to Seton LaSalle and their new turf field. We were down 2-0 ten minutes into the second half when Emma Tulsy took a pass from Shannon Haberman and buried a clean breakaway. The pair hooked up again in the 58th minute as Shannon headed a ball behind the defense to a breaking Emma who leveled the score at 2 to finish the match.

A beautiful, Fall evening in McKeesport Stadium was the setting for a convincing 10-0 Eagles victory. Claire Geraghty got the scoring underway just six minutes in as she finished the game winner off an indirect kick from Morgan Rodella. Senior Fuzz Kimmich sent a beautiful cross into the box to the waiting foot of Junior Lauren Oliphant who effortlessly buried the biscuit in the 14th minute. Lo got the chance to cross one of her own as she sent a ball in that was gathered by Claire for her second of the match in the 16th minute. Annie Hart got on the board taking a nice feed from Shannon Haberman in the 20th minute. Annie notched her second just a minute later taking an outlet pass from Junior Maria DiPerna to goal. Morgan Rodella saw the next play developing. Emma Tulsy stole the ball and streaked down the McKeesport sideline. As the Tiger defense converged on her, she sent a nice loft into the box. The perfectly placed ball found the foot of a blazing Morgan who left no doubt for the final goal of the half in the 35th minute. Emma again provided a ball on a silver platter in the 56th minute as Lo Oliphant recorded her second goal of the game on just two shots. Crosses seemed to be the move of the day as Freshman Shannon Haberman dropped a nice one that Senior Annie Hart gathered in and blistered a rifle shot into the net in the 60th minute. Blythe saw a streaking Claire making a move on the Tiger defense and sent a perfect through ball to a streaking Claire who buried the breakaway in the 70th minute for her 3rd goal of the game. Claire and Annie teamed up for the game's final goal with Claire dropping the ball back to a charging Annie who blistered the ball easily past the helpless Tiger Keeper. Not all was good as Kate Zirpoli was lost for the season with just eight seconds left in the match. Coming in on a breakaway and a sure goal, she came down twisted after taking her shot and tearing her ACL. It would prove to be a huge loss for the Eagles for the season.

Picking up where Thunder left off, Lightning outshot Brashear 32-4 and outscored them 3-0 on the grass at West Field. Freshman Rachel Vigliotti took a direct kick and fellow Freshman Kelly Pankowski finished the business end in the 46th minute. Rachel would figure in on all three Eagle goals as she finished a shot unassisted in the 52nd minute and dished off a nice pass that Lauren DiRubbio buried in the 59th minute to complete the scoring in the decisive victory.

A hot, sunny, humid day at West Field was the back drop for the first ever game with the Baldwin Highlanders. It proved to be a memorable one in a few ways. First, Thunder dominated in shots 18-6 and on the board 3-1. Melissa Petitto got the scoring underway with a pass from Jill Petnuch in the 22nd minute. Then Emily Kennedy tallied the eventual game winner with the assist going to Kathryn Waligura in the 40th minute. Emily also gave us an insurance goal in the 54th minute unassisted. The Varsity dominated, outshooting Baldwin 26-4. Shot after shot either rang off the post or crossbar, went wide or straight to the Keeper. Blythe Young buried a header off of a corner kick from Sophomore Kayla Browning to finally break the ice in the 61st minute. It was the 20th shot of the game. Kayla added the insurance goal unassisted in the 67th minute of a 2-0 victory that was never a close as the score indicated. Senior Keeper Jackie Bissonette picked up her third shutout in four games.

Some awesome memories would be created in the teams' annual trip to State College and the first game against Juniata. Severe and constant rains left about a fourth of the field under 3-4 inches under water. There were also several patches of deep standing water across the rest of the field. The driving rain also provided a lot of muddy fun for the players who frequently extended slide tackles into 10 foot mud rides!!! A great way to waste time was to send the ball into the "lake" on the far side of the field. It literally took minutes for either team to finally get the ball out. Several times, players would charge a ball attempting to send a lead pass to a breaking team mate only to

see the ball move about six inches after being struck. Emma Tulsy notched the first Varsity goal of her career early in the match in just the 2nd minute. She took the ball from an Indian defender and buried a clean breakaway. In what would prove to be a pattern for the contest, Juniata answered just four minutes later to level the score. Claire Geraghty put the Eagles back in front in the 14th minute with a beautiful goal to the upper corner past the out stretched Indian Keeper. The helper went to Freshman Morgan Rodella. Juniata struck again to tie the score in the 29th minute. On the next possession, Sophomore Kayla Browning sent a picture perfect ball to the back of the net with a blistering shot from about 30 yards out to put the Eagles back ahead 3-2 in the 30th minute set up beautifully by Emma. Adding the third goal in three minutes, the Indians tied it up again in the 31st minute and the half ended at 3-3. It seemed that the last goal before time ran out was going to be the game winner in the back and forth action. OC got back in front in the 43rd minute with Blythe Young burying a header from a corner kick by Kayla Browning. Fresh legs provided by numerous substitutions for the rest of the half held the Indians off the board and secured the 4-3 victory. Sophomore Emily Kennedy opened the scoring in the 14th minute for Thunder in the night cap. The Indians leveled the score in the 52nd minute to spoil the shut out and end the game in a tie in the mud. We came back earlier than planned on Saturday due to the Lewistown game being canceled after storms and heavy rains overnight rendered all fields in the area unplayable. A nice stop at the Creamery before we left smoothed over some of the frustration of the canceled game, but it would have been nice to get the second one in.

The Eagles landed at Cupples Stadium for a non-section contest with undefeated and first place AA Section 4 Seton LaSalle. The Rebels were ranked 5th in the WPIAL. A defensive battle by two tough teams provided very little offense. The game appeared to be destined for overtime until Blythe Young sent a ball into waiting, fellow Claire Junior who finished the ball and the game in the 79th minute!!! The game was tied 0-0 and the shots were also even at 7-7 when Claire recorded the game winner.

Melissa Petitto got the JV Thunder on track as she got the 2008 season underway in the 2nd minute as she finished a shot by Emily Kennedy that rebounded off the Rebel Keeper. The combo of Emily & Melissa worked their magic again in the 22nd minute as this time Emily took a through ball from Melissa and broke in on goal with clean break away. Both the Varsity and JV Thunder continued their winning ways!!!

Lightning came home for a match with visiting Canevin. After the Crusaders took a short lived lead, 1-0, Sophomore Midfielder Abby "Flash" Marchione took the ball into the corner and laid out a beautiful cross to a waiting Lauren DiRubbio in the 28th minute. The Crusaders went back on top in the 31st minute and had the lead until Kelly Pankowski notched her second of the 08 campaign finishing a play started by Lauren DiRubbio who picked up her second point of the day. The match ended level at 2.

Thunder came ready to play and pelted the Jaguar Keeper with 16 shots but couldn't put any behind the TJ net minder. Claire Kuszajewski recorded another shutout in the 0-0 tie.

The Eagles, once they finally found the facility, also came ready to play and fired up to take the first of two much needed games against section foe Thomas Jefferson. Unfortunately, so did the Jaguars. In what their parents called their best game ever, the Eagles had no answers for a quartet of fired up, talented players who ran circles around our defense in the 3-0 loss. We made some adjustments at halftime and were level for the second half 0-0, but couldn't find the net. To further add to the disappointment, Senior Sam Stretavski was lost for the season with a torn ACL and MCL after a very strong game.

The Peters Township Indian JV opened the scoring in the 6th minute of their match with the Lightning at Central Catholic HS. Rachel Vigliotti leveled the score in the 9th minute finishing a great pass from Lauren DiRubbio. That was about all of the offense they could muster as Peters outshot the Eagles 16-4 and outscored them 3-1. Strong defensive play by Freshman Colby Foster kept the game a lot closer than it could have been.

In what was arguably the best game we played all season, Annie Hart set up a test book goal for Alex Shaver in the 79th minute of the first of two with Peters Township. The game was played at Central

Catholic which further inspired our effort. Peters won the game 3-1, but Alex's goal was the first goal scored by anyone in the section all season. The fans showed their appreciation with a rousing ovation as Alex's ball found the back of the net. It was a nice way to cap an outstanding effort against one of the premier teams in the WPIAL.

Our first venture into Dormont Stadium, the new home of the Keystone Oaks Golden Eagles pitted the Eagles against the Eagles. The Burgundy and Silver birds dominated the first half allowing just three KO shots and taking a convincing 3-0 lead into the half. A trademark long throw-in from Blythe Young sparked a charge and goal by Alex Shaver in just the 10th minute. Claire Geraghty soundly beat the KO attempt at an offside's trap twice, once in the 15th minute and the second coming in the 23rd minute, scoring on breakaways both times. She gathered in nice through balls from Annie Hart and Kayla Browning for the goals. Keeper Maria DiPerna, making her first Varsity start had an excellent half and it appeared that a shutout was on the horizon. Lauren Oliphant got the second half scoring going in the 56th minute off another patented throw-in from Blythe. The determined Golden Eagles fought back and spoiled Maria's shutout bid in the 60th minute scoring with a direct kick from just outside the box. They kept pressing, but our Eagles maintained and kept the 4-1 result intact for the first ever game and win with KO.

The Lightning got back on track and back to their winning ways with a trip to Serra Catholic. Claire Kuszajewski recorded yet another shut out in what turned into the Rachel & Allie Show. Rachel Vigliotti and Allie Scolieri combined for eight points in the 6-0 victory. Rachel took a pass from Lauren DiRubbio and chipped a nice shot over the charging Eagle Keeper in the 16th minute. Allie Scolieri blazed down the right sidelines and laid a perfect cross to a waiting Rachel who had an easy touch score in the 22nd minute. Duplicating the play in the 24th minute, Allie again laid out a picture perfect cross from the right side to a waiting all-alone-Freshman Bre McAfee who finished the play as well. Rachel and Allie hooked up again on virtually the identical play in the 29th minute that was an instant replay of Allie's cross and Rachel's goal in the 22nd minute. Allie was rewarded for all of the assists in the 42nd minute with a goal of her own with the assist going to Freshman Emily Papak. Freshman Megan Bauer picked up the first goal of her high school career to close out the scoring in the 51st minute with the assist going to Rachel.

Thunder ran into a tough, fired up Bethel Park team and managed just five shots in the 3-0 loss. Senior Erica Lardieri had a goal called back that would have spoiled the Black Hawk shut out. Claire Geraghty got the Eagles varsity on the board first opening the scoring in the 11th minute in a crucial section game. It would mark the second game of the year that the Eagles scored first, but the Black Hawks were too much on this night as we dropped a 6-1 decision.

An injury plagued Thunder team limped in Brashear and limped back out with a second consecutive 3-0 loss in two games even though they outshot the Bulls 19-10. Seniors Jes Rossi, a fullback playing up top, and Melissa Petitto and Kathryn Waligura combined for 13 of the 19 total shots, but couldn't find the back of the net.

Blythe Young recorded the only goal in the 4th minute that the Eagles would need to beat the Tigers from McKeesport. But the onslaught didn't stop there. For the second time this season, the Eagles overpowered the Tigers. Contributing to the 12-0 decision, Claire Geraghty tallied two quick scores in the 9th and 10th minutes, both set up by Alex Shaver. Kira Eichmiller recorded her first goal of her career off a beautiful feed from Annie Hart in the 19th minute. Alex got the second half rolling scoring off of a set up from Lauren Oliphant in the 43rd minute. Claire recorded her third of the game just six minutes later taking a pass from Kayla Browning to the goal. Two minutes later, Claire & Alex hooked up again as Alex notched her second of the game from Claire. Kayla got on the board with her third goal of the year taking a nice feed from Alex in the 55th minute. Sophomore Stopper Kristen Esposito pushed up and blasted a long shot past the helpless McKeesport Keeper to get the first goal of her young varsity career. She took a nice drop from Annie in route to the goal. Alex then recorded her fifth assist of the game setting up Annie in the 63rd minute. Kira recorded her second point of the game assisting on Alex's third goal of the game in the 74th minute. Recording another first, Rachel Vigliotti duped the Tiger Keeper with some fancy footwork for the first of what will surely be many Varsity goals of her young career.

A feisty Baldwin Highlander team, playing it's first game on new turf in their stadium put up a good fight and had a lot of the Lightning players frustrated. Try as we could, we just couldn't put one behind the Highlander net minder despite several great chances by Lauren DiRubbio, Rachel Vigliotti and Allie Scolieri. Baldwin couldn't score either as Keeper Claire Kuszajewski recorded yet another shut out thanks to some great support from the Eagle defense led by Colby Foster and Emily Papak.

The feistiness carried over into the varsity match as we were held scoreless into the half. Baldwin tallied on a breakaway for a 1-0 halftime lead. Then, in the 58th minute, Alex Shaver buried a rebound from a blistering shot from Kayla Browning to level the score. The keeper never had a chance as Alex's quick feet burned the net with the ball. We pressured and controlled the second half, but couldn't finish. Alex came to the rescue eight minutes into overtime finishing a great shot by Claire Geraghty and gave us a much needed section win to stay in the playoff running.

Nine Seniors took the field for their last ever home game at historic West Field against Canevin. Senior Chelsea Canatta launched a long, high shot from the left touchline that bounced off the crossbar and out to the waiting foot of Melissa Petitto. Melissa didn't have time to think about it as she buried the ball behind the harried Crusader keeper. It appeared that the back and forth match was destined to end in a tie when Junior Colleen Hyland, back in the game after taking a ball in the face and leaving her own contribution to the blood, sweat & tears that many have left on this storied field in OC Soccer lore, seemed possessed. With time running down, she stole the ball from a Crusader forward, turned and charged across midfield, deep into the Canevin defense. As she wound her way to the end line, leaving defender after defender in her wake, she rifled a cross to the front of the net to a charging Jes Rossi who left no doubt as she blistered the biscuit deep into the back of the net with just two minutes to go!! It had to be one of the prettiest Thunder plays of the year. What a fitting way for these seniors to end their home careers in Oakland Catholic Soccer, led to a 2-1 victory by one of their own.

It didn't seem like the weather was going to cooperate when Seton LaSalle came to West Field to face the Lightning. Huge, black clouds rolled in, the temperature nosedived and the heavens opened. Everyone was cold and soaked. By game time, the clouds parted and the sun shone!!! Lightning fought hard, but couldn't solve the Rebel Keeper. Seton scored in the 16th minute. It seemed like the score was destined to hold when Colby Foster set up a corner kick with about a minute left. Our Eagles had three tries and on the third kick, Kelly Pankowski put a head on the crossing ball and sent it, and Seton's hope for a shut out win, into the back of the net with only seven seconds left in the match !! What a way to end!! Great game!!

Thunder made a return trip to Canevin for the second game against the Crusaders in three days. This time, Thunder was on their game as Claire Kuszajewski recorded her ninth shutout of the year between the two teams!!! Emily got the scoring going in the 29th minute with the assist going to Junior Caitlin O'Connor. The Keeper made a fine save, but Emily had so much on the eventual game winning shot that it went through the Keepers hands into the net. Katie Siegfried tallied her third of the season with Emily setting her up. Senior Chelsea Canatta recorded the first goal of her high school career in the 54th minute to put the game out of reach with a beautiful loft from about 30 yards out over the outstretched arms of the Crusader Keeper.

The stage was set. All we had to do was beat TJ and go to the playoffs for a fifth consecutive year. We had a week off before the game to rest up - great practices, lots of energy. During a spirited Sunday afternoon practice, the intensity was up and energy was high. Then, Kayla went down - another ACL. We bounded back with Blythe nailing a free kick just under the crossbar seven minutes in. We were off and running !!! Then, the bottom fell out. A few mistakes and we were down 3-1 at the half in a game we really didn't deserve to lose. The 5-1 final didn't portray the effort and heart our Eagles displayed, but it was still very tough to swallow that we were out of the playoffs for the first time in five years. Now we're playing for Oakland Catholic pride.

Lighting, taking it all in, vowed revenge. It came from the foot of Lauren DiRubbio in the 42nd minute. The lone tally held up and Lightning avenged the varsity defeat with Lauren getting her 4th Game Winner of the season and Claire notching her 10th shutout between the two teams!!! Lauren will tell you that she broke in alone, 1 v 1 with the Jaguar Keeper, mono-e-mono and that she rifled a blistering shot to the upper 90 to tickle the twine. In reality, she sent a weak shot toward the Keeper,

who took her mind off of it and it ever so slowly eeked through her hands just over the goal line and stopped. But, hey, a goal is a goal and it was the game winner.....right Lauren !!!!

The trip to Peters Township seemed to take forever. But the extra rest might have helped as the first half was a very well played, hard fought half that saw the Eagles out play Peters for the first 10 minutes, but we were down 1-0 at the half. Peters would manage four more in the second half, but the highlight of the evening was Alex Shaver with a fabulous finish of a throw-in from Blythe Young in the 65th minute. The shot was a half volley finish that took the Indian Keeper totally by surprise in what was the prettiest goal of the year.

A sunny afternoon for the varsity Seniors last game at West Field left everyone in smiles as Oakland produced a goal-fest over Brashear, 16-1. The match set a new OC record for goals scored in a game. Lauren Oliphant got things going finishing a cross from Emma Tulski in the 3rd minute with a nice header for her fourth goal of the year. Emma tallied the next score in the 7th minute taking a pass from Claire Geraghty and driving a shot home. Claire & Emma hooked up again in the 16th minute, this time Claire finishing a nice pass from Emma. Freshman Rachel Vigliotti recorded her first of the contest in the 30th minute when she gathered in a rebound from an Alex Shaver shot and finished the job. Just two minutes later, Rachel finished a beautiful cross from Blythe Young for her second of the contest. Rachel figured in again just one minute later as she set up Alex for the Eagles 6th goal of the half. Rachel seemed possessed and ignited the Eagles as she scored her third goal and fourth point in FOUR minutes taking a lead pass from Junior Cate Linden and beating the helpless Ram Keeper. Cate then got on the board with her second goal of the year with a soaring beautiful goal from a drop by Alex in the 38th minute. Sophomore Natalie Stinson recorder her first varsity goal of her young career in the 39th minute sending a beautiful, long ball over the outstretched arms of the Brashear Keeper. Rachel figured in the assist for her fifth point of the game. She actually recorded five points in ten minutes !! That has to be a record somewhere !!! Brashear spoiled Keeper Maria DiPerna's shutout bid with a breakaway goal in the 18th minute. In another first, Freshman Kelly Pankowski recorded the first varsity goal of her young career finishing a short pass from Claire in the 22nd minute. Claire and Alex added to the scoring blitz only one minute later with Claire finishing a beautiful cross from Alex. Five short minutes later, Claire set up the high long cross which Kelly Pankowski artfully buried in the net with a strong, convincing header for her second of the game. One minute later, Kelly recorded her first assist sending a nice ball through to Claire who finished her third goal of the game. Senior Kira Eichmiller got on the score sheet setting up Alex's second goal of the contest in the 30th minute. The pair hooked up again just a minute later as Alex completed her hat trick with the helper going to Kira.

Senior Lauren Breslin recorded the first varsity goal of her career finishing a pass from Blythe Young and sending a shot to the upper right corner for the final Eagle goal in the last minute of the game. What a day !!! Three players tallied three goals - Claire, Alex and Rachel. In total, eleven different players were recognized on the scoresheet for the match. The shot percentage was an outstanding 42% as 16 goals were scored on only 38 shots. Not all was offensive though. Several contributors on defense limited Brashear to only two shots the entire game.

After a lackluster effort by the Eagles in the first half on a sunny Saturday afternoon, the Seton LaSalle Rebels recorded the first and only goal of the match. Lightning couldn't manage the equalizer and dropped the first game against Seton of the year.

A beautiful, warm night at Central Catholic with a breathtaking sunset provided the backdrop for the 2008 Senior Recognition ceremonies. Keystone Oaks provided the opponent. But first, Thunder and Lightning squared off in a very even contest. Sophomore Emily Kennedy got Thunder on the board finishing a lead pass from Freshman Shannon Haberman. Junior Mara Totten put Thunder up by two with a hard shot to Freshman Claire Kuszajewski's right. Spoiling a shutout, Freshman Rachel Vigliotti got Lightning on the board in the second half for what ended up the final goal of the contest.

A beautiful Senior Recognition ceremony led by celebrity announcer, Alby Oxenreiter from Channel 11 News courtesy of the DiPerna's. An all Senior line-up took the field against the Eagles from KO. At least we knew that "Eagles" would be victorious tonight!!! The even game went back and forth. Both teams put up a good fight. The score was level at the half. The starting varsity took the field to start the second half to help things along. Cate Linden sent a perfectly placed corner kick to the

waiting foot of Senior Fuzz Kimmich who got our Eagles on the board in the 63rd minute. Alex Shaver and Senior Annie Hart teamed up to put the game away in the 68th minute. It was Alex's 13th goal of the season and the final goal of the 2008 season. The seniors returned and maintained the clean sheet for the rest of the way giving Senior Keeper Jackie Bissonette a shut out for her final high school game. Jackie recorded six saves on 9 shots for her fifth shutout for the season. The only lowlight of the evening was a dislocated shoulder suffered by Senior Lauren Breslin in the varsity game.

The last scheduled game of the season with Gateway had to be canceled so it was nice that the seniors left with a win on their Senior Recognition Night. The canceled game wasn't the way we wanted to end the season, but we still left it satisfied with a nice section win that all seniors contributed to. The players, especially the seniors, were sad that it was over, but no one was sad about the effort and the heart they displayed on the field of battle over the season.

The 2008 edition of the Oakland Catholic Eagles ventured into a new section, playing two teams that we never played before and two other teams that we have only seen in the playoffs. It was an eye opening introduction to a new level of play and gave us some keen insight into what lies ahead. The Program continues to make huge strides with a record 19 seniors graduating from this year's team. Several strong and very key players are moving on. We are all assured that the 2009 version will be just as determined to make their mark in a very tough section. Conditioning is just NINE SHORT months away !!!