

Lady Raiders soccer team place third in Intercity tournament

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After a number of cancelled games, the Lady Raider soccer team came into the Intercity Tournament with only one previous game played. This proved to be no problem for Bloomington High School who ended up finishing 3rd as a team in a closely fought tournament.

“Since we had only one game prior to Intercity to prepare us I don’t feel like we played at the level we’re capable of,” said senior forward Tara Clemens. “We have some things we need to work on and when we see these teams later on in the season I think we will show them what we’re really made of.”

Normal Community earned the Intercity title, however, the Normal West Wildcats and BHS battled to the end for second. The Raiders tied West in their head to head matchup, but failed to match West’s overall record following a tie with University High School to end the tournament.

“Our team did pretty well, better than the past so we’re improving,” said senior Hayley Biggs. “I think we let some games get away that we could have finished off but it’s only the beginning and we’ll improve to get the results we want.”

The Lady Raiders began Intercity with an evenly matched tie game against West then came out victorious in a 4-1 win over Central Catholic. Although they suffered a loss to NCHS in the third round, the Raiders bounced back to tie U-High in the final round.

This season BHS returns starting players Clemens, Biggs, Liz Fizek, Emily White, and Beth Walther. Alongside the seniors will be some youth who came ready to play at Intercity.

“Maggie Watkins, our goalie, made several huge plays during the games,” said Clemens of her junior goalie’s performance in the tournament.

The Raiders, whose record is now currently 3-2-2, will start back up with a few Big 12 Conference games and seem confident about their chances this season to be an elite team.

“Our biggest goal as a team is to be Big 12 champs,” said Clemens. “We really want that 09’ up on the banner.”

After the Intercity Tournament, The Raiders faced Rochester on April 8, and Springfield South on April 11. The team was unable to defeat Rochester, but played a strong defence the first half limiting them to fewer goals. BHS played a strong game against Springfield South defeating them six goals to zero with Walther performing a hat trick.

“The team could have definitely performed better against Rochester,” said White. “Last year they had a more well rounded team and with the loss of much if their seniors this year we should of had an advantage over them.”

With a an experienced squad of seniors and a large pool of young talent, the Lady Raiders hope to expand on their decent Intercity finish and strengthen the depth of the team.



Sophomore Kiki Anderson battles for the ball against opposing Normal West forward Jordan Becker during the Intercity game against West on April 2.

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