



WOMEN'S 2007 SEASON RE-CAP

MCC-Blue River Trail Blazer Soccer blazed out its first year with a successful season. Many look at success strictly based upon wins and losses, but in the case of Trail Blazer Women's soccer, we spent our year focusing on progression and building and laying the foundation for a new program. Successful is definitely a word that comes to mind when thinking of this past season.

The first day of pre-season, we rounded up 11 ladies that wanted to be a part of the new program. From a coaching perspective, that doesn't provide any depth considering 11 play on a field at a time. Through the course of the season, we ended up with 19 ladies on our roster. It is difficult to put a gauge or measurement on the progression of the young ladies, but they improved both technically and tactically, and in their focus and maturity to latch on to our system and play along with it. The camaraderie with a sense of team was a dramatic and notable accomplishment of this season.

Two of our most special memories of the season came when playing Graceland JV from Lamoni, IA. Our first match-up against Graceland came at Graceland's home field. It was a beautiful day for soccer, and the Trail Blazers started off the game with a lot of fight, but were trailing at half-time 0-2. Second half the Blazers came out, and the first goal in Trail Blazer history was scored by Julie Perez. Bri Tarr followed up that game with a second goal giving the Trail Blazer women a much-worked-for tie. Another highlight of the season was the Trail Blazer victory over Graceland at our home fields. Samantha Merren scored the first goal of this game off a set play, followed by another goal by Holly Phillips being assisted from Angela Kartzonis on the right flank.

Still another highlight of the season was holding Meramac scoreless in the second half of our match-up in St. Louis; goalkeeper Heather Bourdais, along with some tough defensive support, buckled down in this tough game against Meramec. Our team this year, as many developing teams will do, won many second halves; a strong attitude at half-time and the maturity to listen and wisely apply the coach's adjustments show much about a program's direction. We proved we could fight hard even in some difficult situations. Our regular season ended with a 1-10-1 record qualifying for the first round of regional play-offs. The girls' ability to stay strong in attitude is a skill set that will follow them through life.

Trail Blazer soccer is already looking forward to our second season. Having a year under our belt with a core unit established and enthusiastic about the next season will get us off to a great start for next year. We are poised to continue building on the foundation laid this inaugural season