

ThisWeek's 2016 Super 12 GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

The Captain Hensley stands tall in goal for Gahanna

By JARROD ULREY
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Kaylee Hensley told herself that she just needed to save the first shot and she'd be OK.

During a Division I regional semifinal Nov. 1 against Olentangy Liberty, the junior goalkeeper for the Gahanna Lincoln High School girls soccer team batted away the first two shootout attempts, and the Lions went on to a 2-1 victory that included a 4-2 advantage in the shootout.

Those were among the numerous big saves Hensley made while helping the Lions put together the best season in program history. A first-team all-state and all-district selection and the OCC-Ohio Division Player of the Year, Hensley also has been named the *ThisWeek* Super 12 captain.

"Our schedule is really tough and she usually had to play all game long because we don't blow people out," coach Bob McGee said. "She's good in the air and she's smart. We're starting two freshmen (on defense), so for us to be successful, we had to have that person in the back."

Hensley posted 13 shutouts during the regular season as the Lions went unbeaten, won the OCC-Ohio at 5-0 and earned the No. 1 seed for the district tournament.

She gave up just three regular-season goals and six overall and added two post-season shutouts.

Hensley had eight saves Nov. 5 in a 1-0 regional final loss to Pickerington North. It marked the first time the Lions, who finished 18-1-2 overall, had reached a regional final.

"I've been a goalkeeper since I was about 9 years old, and I just like being a defensive player and being able to save a game," Hensley said. "I definitely think I've improved. I communicated more this year, which was helpful."

Hensley, who is 5-foot-7, finished with 80 saves and saved 91 percent of the shots she faced. Among her regular-season shutouts were a pair of scoreless ties as well as a 1-0 win over Liberty on Sept. 6.

"If you put her on the field, she'd be a great field player, too, because of her work ethic," McGee said.

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LYDIA CORNELIUS

Cornelius, a sophomore midfielder, had 11 goals and 24 assists as New Albany won the OCC-Capital. Cornelius is a two-year starter for the Eagles, who went 13-2-4 overall and 4-0-1 in the league, and reached a Division I district semifinal. She was voted the team's MVP and named second-team all-state.

"She really stepped it up this year and produced on both sides of the ball, whether in our attack or hustling back on defense to break up the opponents' attempts on goal," coach Kelly Snead said. "She is a modest player that gave up her number this year so that a returning senior that was injured last preseason could have her favorite number for her senior year."



BLAIR COWAN

Cowan, a junior midfielder and Ohio State commit, had 16 goals and 15 assists to help Hilliard Darby to a 14-4-1 record and a Division I district runner-up finish.

Cowan had seven game-winning goals and was first-team all-district and all-OCC-Cardinal and second-team all-state.

"Blair is a highly gifted athlete who works and trains hard with a passion for being technically sound," coach Dan Brady said. "She is a complete player and the quarterback of our team. She makes it all happen out there. She has incredible field vision, and one of the most noticeable things about her play is her ability to move with the ball to open things around her."



GRACE DELUCA

A four-year starter, this Thomas Worthington midfielder is a repeat Super 12 honoree.

DeLuca set the program's season record for goals (26) and had 13 assists as the Cardinals reached a Division I district final for the third season in a row and finished 13-5-1. DeLuca was first-team all-state and all-district for the second consecutive year and first-team all-league for the third season in a row. She was OCC-Cardinal Player of the Year, and finished her career with 60 goals and 41 assists.

"Grace is the real deal and would be an asset to any program," coach Tim Barton said. "She is a very clutch player and there is no one else I would rather count on than her and build a team around."



ALYSSA EDWARDS

Edwards, a senior forward, had 15 goals and 13 assists — both team-bests — to lead Canal Winchester to its best postseason since moving to Division I.

Edwards was named OCC-Capital Player of the Year, first-team all-district and second-team all-state as the Indians went 13-2-3 overall and 3-0-2 in the league, and reached a district semifinal. Edwards, who has committed to Urbana University, also led the team with eight goals and four assists as a junior.

"She led us in both goals and assists while capturing us to our best season," coach Alex Wentz said. "Her strengths include her out-and-out pace, one-on-one ability and true goal-scoring talent."



EMILY GANZ

The Division I district Player of the Year, this Wattersson senior forward will take her scoring abilities to Otterbein next season.

Ganz, who also was first-team all-state, had 23 goals and 14 assists as the Eagles finished 10-5-5 overall and 4-0 in the CCL to win their sixth consecutive league title.

She scored four goals Sept. 29 as Wattersson beat Hartley 6-3 to wrap up the CCL title. Wattersson lost to Dublin Jerome 3-0 in a district final Oct. 29.

"(Her strengths) are her ability to hold on to the ball and spread defenders out and her ability to finish," coach Alyx Portier said. "This year she really matured."



KARLI ROYER

Royer, a senior forward, was OCC-Buckeye Player of the Year and second-team all-state as Westerville North went 6-5-7 and nearly upset top-seeded Gahanna in a Division I district semifinal, losing 1-0 in overtime Oct. 25 despite being the 18th seed.

Royer, who also was Super 12 last season, had 15 goals and four



assists, giving her 37 goals and 20 assists for her career.

"Karli's speed and ability level are the first things you notice about her," coach Brett Weiss said. "But as you continue to watch her play, her competitive level is so high that her speed and ability level seem to get even greater."

The Cincinnati commit also was first-team all-district.

EMMA SEARS

A sophomore forward, Sears made first-team all-league and second-team all-state as Dublin Jerome won the OCC-Cardinal at 6-0 and was first-team all-district for a squad that won a Division I district title.

She had one goal and one assist as Jerome beat Wattersson 3-0 in a district final Oct. 29 and scored 17 goals overall. The Celtics finished 14-4-2 overall with a 1-0 overtime loss to Pickerington North in a regional semifinal Nov. 1.

When Sears joined the program last season, coach Kelly Brothers immediately recognized the player's creative talent.

"She really puts our offense into action," Brothers said. "She scored 12 of our 35 goals in the regular season and scored in every tournament game (except for the regional semifinal)."



CAMERON SHEDENHELM

Shedenhelm, a senior forward, scored 14 goals to lead Pickerington North to its fifth Division I state tournament berth. North went 18-3-1, winning the 10th district title in its 14 seasons. The Panthers lost to Springboro 1-0 in overtime in a state semifinal Nov. 8.

Shedenhelm, a Kent State commit, finished her career with 60 goals, leading the team in scoring her sophomore and junior seasons with 13 and 16 goals, respectively. This year, she was named first-team all-district and all-OCC-Ohio and second-team all-state.

"She is so energetic and so athletic," coach Greg Van Kannel said. "She can score. She can pass the ball. She is a great personality and fun to be around. We're going to miss her."



BELLA SHIVLEY

Shivley, a senior midfielder, scored a team-high 29 goals to lead DeSales to a Division I district semifinal. The Stallions went 11-4-3 overall.

Shivley finished her career with 71 goals and 33 assists. A four-year letterwinner, she was named first-team all-district and all-league as well as second-team all-state for the second consecutive year.

Shivley also led the Stallions in scoring as a junior (17 goals) and sophomore (20).

"Bella is an excellent goal scorer and can score from anywhere in the final third (of the field)," coach Sarah Ganz said. "Her work rate, unselfish mentality and ability to make the players around her better make her a leading player in DeSales soccer history."



ABBY TOWNSEND

With this junior forward leading the way, Olentangy Liberty won a third consecutive Division I district title. Townsend had 21 goals and eight assists, earning first-team all-district and all-OCC-Buckeye as well as second-team all-state as the Patriots went 15-3-2. The Patriots lost to Gahanna 2-1 (4-2 shootout) in a regional semifinal Nov. 1.

"Abby has incredible speed, surpassing almost all defenders of the teams that we play," coach Kristen McMahon said. "She's physically strong on the ball and has a very accurate shot. Abby has been such a presence on our team this year and I look forward to seeing how she can grow and develop as next season approaches."



ABBY WELLS

This senior forward capped a stellar career by being named OCC-Central Player of the Year, first-team all-district and second-team all-state. Wells scored a team-high 22 goals as Hilliard Davidson finished 9-4-3 overall and 4-0-1 in the OCC-Central, winning its first league title since 2010. The Wildcats lost to Wattersson 2-1 in a Division I district semifinal Oct. 25.

Wells scored six goals in an 18-0 win over Westland on Sept. 6 and had two in a 4-1 league win over Upper Arlington on Sept. 20. "Abby had an excellent senior season, being voted a captain by her teammates and leading our team in scoring throughout the year," coach Heather Connaire said. "We're all extremely proud of her accomplishments and drive this year."



About the players...

ThisWeek's Super 12 team profiles the top high school girls soccer players — regardless of position — in our coverage area. The team was determined by the sports staff and by nominations from area coaches.



Gahanna goalkeeper Kaylee Hensley dives to make a save against Pickerington North in a Division I regional final Nov. 5. Hensley, a junior who was first-team all-state, all-district and the OCC-Ohio Player of the Year, posted 13 shutouts in leading the Lions to an 18-1-2 season. SHUTOUTS FLANIGAN/THISWEEK

Super 12

NAME	SCHOOL	YR.	POS.
Lydia Cornelius	New Albany	So.	M.
Blair Cowan	Hilliard Darby	Jr.	M.
Grace DeLuca	Thomas Worthington	Sr.	M.
Alyssa Edwards	Canal Winchester	Sr.	F.
Emily Ganz	Wattersson	Sr.	F.
Kaylee Hensley	Gahanna	Jr.	G.
Karli Royer	Westerville North	Sr.	F.
Emma Sears	Dublin Jerome	So.	F.
Cameron Shedenhelm	Pickerington North	Sr.	F.
Bella Shivley	DeSales	Sr.	M.
Abby Townsend	Olentangy Liberty	Jr.	F.
Abby Wells	Hilliard Davidson	Sr.	F.

Honorable Mention

NAME	SCHOOL	YR.	POS.
Sam Buck	Reynoldsburg	Sr.	F.
Maria Claypool	Grandview	Sr.	F.
Katie Cox	Granville	Jr.	M.
Abby Davies	Newark	Jr.	F.
Delaney Earl	Olentangy Orange	Jr.	F.
Casey King	Hartley	Jr.	M.
Emma Padgett	Big Walnut	Jr.	F.
Anna Piscopo	Upper Arlington	Sr.	D.
Izzy Reibold	Pickerington North	Sr.	D.
Rose Sawyers	Granville	Jr.	F.
Julia Scott	Olentangy	Sr.	D.
Aspara Som	Columbus Academy	Jr.	M.
Grace Todd	Worthington Christian	So.	F.
Anna Weigand	Marysville	Jr.	G.
Kennedy Wells	Westerville Central	Sr.	D.

Past Captains

Grandview's Haley Rees (2015), Olentangy Liberty's Emma Ranalli (2014), Dublin Coffman's Sam Edwards (2012, 2013) and Kelly Quinn (2003, 2004), Dublin Jerome's Lindsay Agnew (2011), Upper Arlington's Michela Paracchi (2008, 2009, 2010), Pickerington North's Tahni Annis (2006, 2007) and Molly Cornwell (2005), Bexley's Megan Brake (2002), DeSales' Ashley Schillig (2001), Tesia Kozlowski (1999, 2000) and Mandy Hammond (1997) and Thomas Worthington's Ashley Swinehart (1998)