

LANCASTER MENNONITE SCHOOL

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SUMMER 2008

Bridges

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*Centered in Christ
Transforming Lives
Changing our World*



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Bridges is the quarterly magazine of Lancaster Mennonite School, sent to alumni, parents and friends. LMS exists to transform students so they can change our world through Christlike love, peacemaking and service. The school welcomes students without regard to sex, race, nationality or ethnic origin.

Lancaster Mennonite School has four campuses:

Kraybill, grades PreK–8
598 Kraybill Church Road
Mount Joy, PA 17552
(717) 653-5236

Lancaster, grades 6–12
2176 Lincoln Highway East
Lancaster, PA 17602
(717) 299-0436

Locust Grove, PreK–8
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Lancaster, PA 17602
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New Danville, grades PreK–6
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Cover photos: Lancaster Mennonite Blazers celebrate Kelsey Gorman's winning goal with three minutes left in the PIAA Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association spring girls soccer championship, held June 6 at Hersheypark Stadium. PHOTO: LINDA WINGARD

GIRLS SOCCER IS FIRST LMS TEAM TO WIN A STATE TITLE

A ride to remember

In the distance a Hersheypark roller coaster inches gently to the summit, then drops its victims in a heart-stopping rush.

Back in the Hersheypark Stadium the Lancaster Mennonite girls soccer team, yearning for its first PIAA Class AA spring crown, is on a roller coaster ride of its own. After an exhilarating first goal for the Blazers, Fleetwood (27-4) answers with two back-to-back goals with 8:20 left on the clock.

But what may have been paralysis for some, is an energizer for a team that knows about second-half challenges. About a minute after Fleetwood takes the lead, Allison (Ally) Brown ties the game. Then, with just 3.38 minutes left, Gorman is awarded a direct kick after colliding with two Fleetwood defenders just outside the box. When Kori Wenger fakes the kick and steps aside, Gorman moves in, deftly shaping the ball over the defensive wall into the top right corner of the net.

Minutes later an exceptional season-long ride that rolled a week past com-

mencement comes to an end. The Blazers have just written some more school history—a first ever state title for an LMS athletic team.

That evening the celebrating continues at the Lancaster Campus where families, staff and friends welcome the victorious team back to the school amidst a lively police/fire truck escort. Inside Gym B, School Board President Diane Umble shares a board resolution that congratulates the students and their coach for “representing the values of LMS” in their team play and daily life.

“We wish you the blessings of God as you transform our world through Christlike love, peacemaking and service,” the resolution concludes.

When Coach Dale Stoltzfus, a 1979 LMS graduate, describes the team’s journey to the gold medal, he says one of the things he appreciated most about the students was their singing on the way to the games. To illustrate, the team breaks out into the contemporary hymn, “In Christ Alone,” then leads the

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Gorman named *Female Athlete of the Year*

Two days after scoring the game-winning goal that sealed her team’s state title, Kelsey Gorman was named the Lancaster Newspapers Female Athlete of the Year for stellar performances in volleyball, basketball and soccer. Gorman, who attended the Kraybill and Lancaster campuses kindergarten through grade 12, earned 11 varsity letters and this year was captain on all three teams.

In soccer, she helped her team win the Section 3 and Lancaster-Lebanon League championships and reach the finals of Districts before advancing to the District 3 Double-A championship game at Hershey.

In volleyball, she earned All-State status for the second year in a row and helped her team win the Section 2 championship, earn a trip to the league semifinals, advance to finals in Double-A district play, and go on to state play.

And in basketball she averaged 8.3 points a game, hit 15 three-pointers and was an all-section performer, finishing her career with 906 points. The team won the Section 4 title, reached the league championship game, and won the school’s first District 3 Triple-A title in basketball (with a school-record 28 wins) before advancing to state play.

She says teamwork was the key for all three teams. “To be successful as a team really brings it all together,” she told New Era sports writer Jeffrey Reinhart. “And I just loved being with all my teammates. That’s what made this all very special for me.”

This fall she will attend Messiah College where she plans to study accounting and play soccer. ■



Kelsey Gorman, 2008



On their way to States, the LMS girls soccer team won the Section and League championships and were runner-ups in Districts. Shown above with their state trophy, the players and coaches are—Front row, left to right: Bethany Miller, Taylor Wenger, Lisa Wingard, Sarah Dickinson, Bethany Engle, Kelsey Gorman, Kori Wenger, Allison Brown, Stephanie Miller. Second row: Rachel Dickinson, Shelby Roberts, Julie Collins, Joanna Cote, Katie Ruth, Laura Gochnauer, Danielle Zeamer, Rachel Stoltzfoos, Heidi Weaver, Brianna Lehman, Marisa Umble, Kaitlyn Hurst. Back: assistant coach Mike Neuman, assistant volunteer coach John Denlinger, Heather Gochnauer, Celina Nissley, Katherine Zell, Katie Leeking, Rachel Kennel, Katelyn Vanderhoff, Katelyn Ritzenhouse, Jaelyn Gyger, Caroline Augsburg, Carli Bowman, coach Dale Stoltzfus (1979), assistant volunteer coach Cliff Wenger (1979). At right, the team is welcomed back to campus. PHOTOS: JOYCE COTE



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crowd in singing “Amazing Grace.”

For Stoltzfus, coming into an already successful soccer program and coaching a winning team in his first season at LMS is an incredible honor. He gives the team a great deal of credit for their resiliency and hard work during the

more difficult competitions and also during the many end-of-year distractions.

“It was a tremendous group of individuals who represented their community, school, parents, coaching staff, and teammates so well during the entire season,” he says. ■

Editor’s note: While girls soccer is the first team to win a state title, track and field star Lindsey Shertzer was the first individual to bring home the gold (spring of 2007) when she captured the Class AA 1,600-meter title.

Focus on the journey

By John Denlinger

The team motto for this season—“Focus on the journey, not the destination”—grew out of a pre-season conversation about the team’s goals. Cliff Wenger (volunteer assistant coach) explained to the team that while it is important to talk about the desired outcome or destination, it is equally important to focus on the journey, which includes the joy of day to day practices and relating together. He explained that when that daily focus happens, there is a much better chance of reaching the destination of playing in the state championship.



John Denlinger

As a pastor I believe this speaks to our lives as Christians as well. Our daily talk and walk with Christ and others should inform, instruct and influence our journey as the church and

finally our destination at “the end of the season.” Teamwork, sharing, bearing and caring with one another, and putting others or the team before individual needs and desires—all of these speak to our journey with Jesus and others.

One of the unique distinctives that both Christians and athletes share is the desire to be responsible for our actions and say “I’m sorry” when we play or live in a way that is not compatible with our beliefs or standards. As an assistant volunteer coach of this soccer team, I have witnessed that approach playing itself out throughout the season. Not only is that a uniqueness that sets LMS athletics apart; it’s a great practice for being the church. ■

John, a former school board member and a pastor at Ridgeview Mennonite Church, served the soccer team as an assistant volunteer coach.