Northampton Seniors: Leaving a Legacy

NORTHAMPTON, MA -- — On Wednesday night, before their game against Longmeadow High School, Northampton honored the five seniors on the girls' soccer team who will be graduating in 2025. Those five seniors are: Ally Busone, Allie Edmands, Odessa Gianesin, Elenor Lewis, and Teagan McDonald.

To make the night special, the younger players decorated the stands with handmade posters and blue and gold streamers. Once the ceremony began, each senior walked onto the field alongside their family, while their teammates delivered heartfelt messages and congratulations over the loudspeaker. Each senior received a bouquet of sunflowers, hugs from their coach, Vanessa Butynski, and warm cheers from the crowd. It was a moment that highlighted their achievements while celebrating the bonds they've formed.

The speeches that the players gave, as well as the attendance and cheers from the Northampton fans, made it apparent just how impactful these seniors have been to their team and community. Although they've dedicated their lives to soccer, the senior night ceremony showed that these young women are so much more than just soccer players – they are role models, leaders, and friends, who have helped in shaping the team's close-knit dynamic over the years.

Aside from soccer, these girls are also dedicated students who excel in the classroom. Each senior is an active member of the National Honor Society, an organization that recognizes high school students for their academic achievements. Ally Busone, one of the team captains, plans to major in nursing and is already gaining hands-on experience through an internship at Cooley Dickinson Hospital. Her dedication to her future career has inspired her teammates and classmates alike.

Athletically, they are all well-rounded individuals, and many of them participate in other sports for Northampton such as lacrosse and track and field. Teagan McDonald, who is a four year varsity player on the soccer team and a two-time captain, is committed to play lacrosse at Salve Regina University in Rhode Island. Another senior, Eleanor Lewis, hasn't committed to a college yet, but plans on running track and field during her four years.

These accomplishments, however, only scratch the surface of their impact. During the ceremony, younger players shared emotional tributes, highlighting the personal qualities that make each senior so memorable:

- "Ally is always a friendly face at school or practice. You can always count on her to be calm, focused, and keep her composure on the field. We will miss Ally's kindness and positivity so much."

- “She’s consistently smiling and laughing, bringing infectious joy to the team. Elenor leads with kindness and strength and manages to keep everyone in check.”

- “We can’t talk about Teagan without talking about her kindness and empathy towards others. She never fails to make others smile or encourage them to try new things.”

This senior class helped lead Northampton to one of its best seasons in years. They guided the team to a remarkable 13-game winning streak that lasted until mid-October. Their success on the field reflected their hard work, skill, and ability to foster a strong sense of teamwork. Yet, it’s the camaraderie and leadership they’ve displayed that will resonate long after the final whistle.

Their legacy is not just about wins or personal accolades; it’s about the bonds they’ve built and the example they’ve set for future players. Whether through their academic success, athletic achievements, or personal kindness, Ally, Elenor, Teagan, Odessa, and Allie have left a lasting mark on Northampton High School and their community.