Women’s Lacrosse: Socastee vs. Savannah Prep

This past Friday night in Hilton Head, February 28, the Lady Braves took on Savannah Prep school in an outstanding defeat. The game ended with the score 20-7.

Socastee brought the heat right at the draw with control over the ball and a goal within one minute of play time. With the ball flipping far to the right wing of the field on almost every draw, #13 Kayla Young and #22 Sarah Grabowski were able to snatch the ball and transition it downfield for offensive setups. Savannah Prep’s pressured man-on-man defense initially intimidated the Braves, but was no match to the speed and intensity Socastee played with. The coaches encouraged 110% effort and intensity, and told the players that the score is always 0-0-- a reminder that the girls should try as hard throughout the game and not let a lead get to their heads.

Savannah Prep ran several offensive cuts and drills, but they were no match for Socastee’s zone defense, which caused several turnovers. Savannah was left goal-less until approximately ten minutes into the first half. The motion they brought challenged the Brave’s defense and gave them a chance to show off their organized game-play. Defensive captains Hayley Fergus, #19, and Kayla Young, #13, kept the Braves on point and under control.

Midfielder Natalie Cafiero, #23, started the game with a quick and accurate first point, and went on to score another three. Midfielders Jackie Turner, #1, and Sarah Grabowski each scored 3 points, and midfielder Rachael Harter, #2, scored 8 points. First-year player and attackman Ashley Willingham, #7, scored her first goal of the season, and another first-year player and attackman finished off the game with a goal in the last 2 minutes, setting the Lady Brave’s final score to 20.

The Lady Braves showed insane talent Friday night and came out with high stats, including 23 ground balls, 34 shots on goal, and 13 draw controls. With only 2 subs, Socastee Womens Lacrosse is making history in what training and persistence can accomplish.

Socastee vs. Hilton Head

Saturday, March 1, was a big day for the Socastee Girls Lacrosse team. They played Hilton Head at Hilton Head Highschool’s own lacrosse field. In the last 10 seconds of over-time, the Braves lost 13-14.

In the first 15 minutes, the Seahawks were 1-2 points up, while most goals were scored after long-winded offensive plays by the opposing team. They brought the heat with cutting and crashing in around the crease. Their offensive drills didn’t sway the Lady Brave’s zone defense, so the Seahawks had to rely on their 2 sole-players, dangerous propelling of shots (uncalled), and illegal (yet uncalled) picks to carry the team. Hayley Fergus, #19, was able to intercept several passes and transition it down field.

The Lady Braves were explosive offensively and were able to pass triple-team defense. Although half-time was discouraging from a 2-point gap and an injured player, they came back ready to win and beat Hilton Head the right way—with good fundamentals and strategic plays. #22 Sarah Grabowski took advantage of the opposing team’s weak fundamentals and grabbed 9 total groundballs, as did #23 Natalie Cafiero, who picked up 8. First year players Lyrenthia Johnson, #21, and Damoni Brown, #5, also had a ground ball each and helped transition the ball down the field. #13 Kayla Young was able to get a goal in with 15 seconds left in the game which tied the score 11-11, launching the game into overtime. Hilton Head got the first goal after 30 seconds of playtime, but Socastee tied it back up with a goal within 10 seconds, shot by Natalie Cafiero. Within the last 10 seconds the referees called a free position shot that led Hilton Head to score and win the game with 3 seconds left.

Jackie Turner, #1, scored one goal, Kayla Young and Sarah Grabowski each scored one goal, Rachael Harter, #2, scored 6 goals, and Natalie Cafiero scored 4 goals. Goalie Amy Kowalski had 9 total saves. Socastee Lady Braves agreed they still won, seeing as they played one of their best games ever. They worked together as a team and played a clean game with precise stick skills. From here they can only get better.