

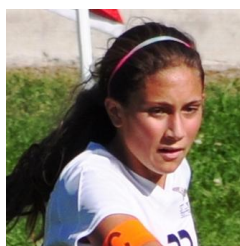
Anxious for more

Eagles exceed expectations in 2013, and narrowly miss 4A state title

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

Few people outside the Skyline girls soccer team noticed, but coach Yamil Castillo felt 2013 could be another special season the summer before.

“There were not a lot of expectations, but when we went to that U(niversity) of U(tah) soccer camp and played 12 games and won 11 of them, I thought this could be a special season,” Castillo recalled.



Jaslyn Masina

“I knew it after we won all of our non-region games and gave Timpanogos a great game. Now it was just up to us to take it. We were so close.”

The Eagles fell just short of the state championship, but still had one of their best seasons in school history. They finished with an 18-2 overall record and tied with Timpanogos for the Region 7 championship. They were the only team to beat the Timberwolves during the season, and lost a 1-0 heartbreaker in the 4A title game at Rio Tinto Stadium.

The region title was Skyline’s fifth straight. The loss ended Skyline’s hope of winning its second state crown, but Castillo said it should keep the team hungry for the 2014 season. He said he was proud of the team that accomplished so much after losing so many great seniors the year before.

“We had nothing to lose,” Castillo said. “The kids were challenged and played unselfishly all season long. We had great chemistry and it made this one of the best seasons I’ve ever coached.”

The Eagles were led by junior forward Jaslyn Masina, who was named the team’s Most Valuable Player at the postseason banquet. Masina scored 10 goals but, perhaps more importantly, she seemed to



Lauren Petersen accepts congratulations from Emma Heyn and Bella Sorenson after scoring a goal at Murray.

be the glue that held the team together.

She had a lot of help, too. Sophomore Holly Daugirda started the season quickly and even had one four-goal game. She eventually became 4A’s top scorer with 24 goals and teamed with Masina and Emma Heyn (14 goals) to give Skyline an effective downfield combination.

Goalkeeper Hilary Weixler was great upfield, recording 11 shutouts, and joined Daugirda as a first team all-state selection. Like Daugirda, Weixler took advantage of the play of talented teammates like her sister, Sara Weixler, as well as Zoe Moses, Rachel

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SKYLINE SOCCER: 2013 season recap



ABOVE: Holly Daugirda is interviewed by a reporter.

RIGHT: Hillary Weixler and Jaslyn Masina share a post-game laugh.



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Gordon and others. During region play, only one opponent (Timpanogos) scored more than one goal in a game.

“We had a tremendous defense,” Castillo said. “That was the big difference for us.”

From the day after Skyline edged Timpanogos 2-1 on its home field until the title game, the Eagles were ranked No. 1 among Utah’s 4A teams. Castillo said it felt like the team had a target on its backs and got every opponent’s best effort from the entire time.

Skyline finished mostly injury free. The Eagles lost Ellery Howarth before the season and then Sara Weixler went down with an ACL tear just before the playoffs. Both players tried to make the best of their misfortune.

Howarth actively promoted the team to fellow students as a student body officer. Weixler, meanwhile, continued to cheer on the team and took pleasure in watching Gordon’s improvement after taking her spot. In fact, the Eagles didn’t give up a goal in the playoffs until the title contest.

“We had a lot of great improvement, but none were better than Gordon and Zoe (Moses),” Castillo said.

Other highlights included finishing undefeated at home and stretching the home-field winning streak to 19 games. Skyline also showed a lot of depth. Fourteen different players scored goals and that, combined with the JV team’s success, seemed to set up the Eagles for more.

What can be done for an encore? Unlike this year, a lot will likely be expected for the 2014 team. Special seasons can be created in many ways and next year should have a story line just as interesting as this one.

2013 results (18-2, 11-1)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>W/L</u>	<u>Score</u>
Aug. 13	WEBER	W	5-1
Aug. 15	at Highland	W	3-0
Aug. 16	NORTHRIDGE	W	3-1
Aug. 20	at Syracuse	W	5-1
Aug. 22	MURRAY*	W	6-0
Aug. 27	at Timpanogos*	L (2OT)	3-4
Aug. 29	CORNER CANYON*	W	7-1
Sept. 5	at Mountain View*	W	2-0
Sept. 10	at Olympus*	W	4-1
Sept. 12	OREM*	W	7-0
Sept. 17	at Murray*	W	3-0
Sept. 19	TIMPANOGOS*	W	2-1
Sept. 24	at Corner Canyon*	W	4-1
Oct. 1	MOUNTAIN VIEW*	W	3-0
Oct. 3	OLYMPUS*	W	2-0
Oct. 8	at Orem*	W	8-0
Oct. 15	SPRINGVILLE#	W	6-0
Oct. 17	CLEARFIELD#	W	1-0
Oct. 22	vs. East#	W	1-0
Oct. 24	vs. Timpanogos#	L	0-1

* - Region 7 games. Home games in CAPS

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- Coach Yamil Castillo



Kelsie Pos gets past a Highland defender during an early season match.