

## Sep. 19 Field Hockey

# Steinert's steady improvement finally leads to season's first victory

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

**Sep. 19:** From a five-goal loss, to a one-goal loss, to a one-goal win.

If scores and results count for anything performance-wise, then Steinert's field hockey team is definitely improving.

The Spartans gained their first win of the season today when Angie Aronis scored the game-winning goal 15 seconds after Ewing tied it up, as Steinert escaped with a 2-1 victory over the Blue Devils.

That puts the Spartans at 1-2 after a 5-0 loss to Robbinsville and 2-1 setback to Lawrence.

"I think they're gaining more confidence in themselves and learning how to score and learning to work together to score," coach Alyson Setzer said. "There's still some kinks to work out, but it's definitely going in the right direction."

"We're starting to work better," said senior forward Ashley Gonzalez, who had a goal and an assist. "We're still a kind of new team. We lost a couple players from last year, so we're still trying to work together, get the hang of it."

Steinert had a good part of the play against Ewing, outshooting the Blue Devils 13-9. In the first half, the Spartans held a 8-1 shot advantage but failed to convert. Ewing goalie Elissa Zucek was tough, saving a penalty stroke during the half.

"We were cutting it really close," Gonzalez said. "We had good opportunities at the beginning and it just wasn't working. Thank God they started going in for us after a while."

After going 0-for-8 in the first half, the Spartans went 2-for-5 in the second. Gonzales snapped the scoreless tie with 19:51 remaining.

"Carly Wood passed it over to me and I ended up hitting it from the stroke line," Gonzalez said.

Steinert maintained the lead until the Devils' scored with 8:45 remaining. Rather than put their head down, the Spartans came back just 15 seconds later when Gonzalez crossed it to Aronis, who tipped it in.

"It's big to get the momentum right back," Setzer said. "That's really the toughest two or three minutes of the game right after you score. The other team is so excited and you kind of catch them back on their heels a little bit."

Ewing re-gathered itself late in the game and assaulted goalie Danielle Fabian. During one three-shot sequence, Fabian made two saves and Sara Diefenbach kicked one out.

"Danielle's doing really good," Gonzalez said. "We switch goalies each game (with Grace Harkness the other one) and she's done a nice job. I'm proud of her."



*Steinert's Ashley Gonzalez exults after scoring the game's first goal against Ewing Today (Creatively blurry photo by Rich Fisher)*

“We’re fortunate to have two good goalies,” Setzer said. “They both work hard. They put some time in over the summer so hopefully they can split equal time in the cage.”

The coach’s main concern is to have a team of new players start to gel offensively.

“We always have problems scoring, but that second goal was a beaut,” Setzer said. “We just have to communicate more and put a little more pressure on that goalie.”

If they can do that, the progress should continue.

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In Saturday’s action, Ewing defeated Nottingham 1-0, while Hamilton fell to Bordentown, 4-0. Nottingham dropped to 1-3 and Hamilton fell to 0-4.