

## FIVE OTHERS TO WATCH

### ALLISON BUNNER SO., BRENTSVILLE

All-Group AA performer and the Evergreen District Player of the Year as a freshman after scoring 11 goals and adding five assists. She plays in the midfield for the Tigers.

### NIKI CLARK JUNIOR, GAR-FIELD

Entering her third year as a starter for the Indians, this forward finished as the team's leading scorer last season with seven goals and three assists.

### EMMA KRUSE SENIOR, FOREST PARK

Recorded 10 shutouts last season for the Bruins and allowed only 10 goals all season. Had 22 saves in the Northwest Region final.

### KELLSEY COSTELLO-MAYS SENIOR, WOODBRIDGE

Two-year starter who has eight goals and 20 assists in her career. This midfielder, who has signed with Campbell University, tied for the team lead last season with 10 assists.

### SYDNEY MORRIS SENIOR, HYLTON

A four-year starter for the Bulldogs, she tallied two goals and three assists last season. She is Hylton's playmaker from the center midfield position and has great composure and vision in directing the offense.

## FIVE NEW FACES

### CASSIDY ROWELL FRESHMAN, BRENTSVILLE

With her passing skills, and tackling strength, Rowell will fit right in with the Tigers' midfield of Bunner and Bridget Bergquist to form a formidable unit at that position.

### SAM FROWEN FRESHMAN, OSBOURN

With her experience gained playing for her travel team, Frowen has the abilities to step in and take charge of the Eagles' backline. She has already gained the confidence of her teammates in being able to hold her own in goal.

### ABBY HUGHES SOPHOMORE, HYLTON

A transfer from California, Hughes has been a pleasant surprise for the Bulldogs. The midfielder/forward has an excellent shot, but also distributes the ball well.

### ANNAH LINDBERG FRESHMAN, FOREST PARK

She's expected to step in and contribute right away for the Bruins. Earlier this week, Lindberg was named to the Super-Y League Girls' Olympic Development Select Team for her age group.

### SARAH WARD FRESHMAN, FREEDOM

The first-year varsity player has shown a great deal of maturity on the field and superior skill for a young player. She will play in the midfield.

## FOCUS ON: BATTLEFIELD'S ALY SHAUGHNESSY



Aly Shaughnessy is a four-year starter for the Bobcats. She was all-Cedar Run District and all-Northwest Region last season. (John Boal/News & Messenger)

# Going out on top

## Shaughnessy looks to lead Bobcats back to states

By BEN TRITTIPOE  
For the News & Messenger

### THE SHAUGHNESSY FILE

» Age: 18  
» Year: Senior  
» College: William & Mary  
» Family: Ted, mother, Sue, brother Matthew (20)  
» Did you know? During her first two years at Battle-



When Aly Shaughnessy was a freshman at Battlefield High School, she and five of her classmates were members of the Bobcats team that reached the Virginia Group AAA state championship game.

That group expected a trip to the state playoffs would become an annual occurrence, but it hasn't worked out that way for Battlefield. Each of the past two seasons, the Bobcats have lost in the opening round of the Northwest Region tournament.

This season, Shaughnessy wants to make sure she and her fellow seniors go out on top.

"This is very important to us as seniors," Shaughnessy said. "This is our last year and we want to do big things. The day after the team was set this spring, we met and set three goals - be district champs, get past the first round of regionals and make the region final to go to states."

Shaughnessy will be a key to accomplishing those goals. The center midfielder earned all-district and all-region honors last season as she scored six goals and added six assists as Battlefield posted a 14-4-2 overall

record and won the Cedar Run District tournament title.

"Aly is a workhorse and can run all day," Battlefield head coach Kevin Hilton said. "This is a veteran team and there are a lot of pieces around her. Her role is to control the middle, distribute the ball and create opportunities for the forwards up front. She's also a strong defender, and we may need her to take on a larger role there this season after losing three

starters to graduation."

That switch won't bother Shaughnessy, who has accepted a scholarship to attend the College of William & Mary next fall.

"I'll do anything he wants me to do," she said. "Defense has always been a big part of my game, and I try to be where the ball is."

That attitude shows how, according to Hilton, Shaughnessy has grown in her time with the Bobcats. In her first two years, Shaughnessy didn't need to take on a leadership role due to the number of older players in the program. But last year, she was asked to do more, and she readily took to the assignment.

"She's competitive by nature and has a tremendous work ethic, and that rubs off on the other players," Hilton said. "People try to play to her level, and she demands excellence out of her teammates. The girls definitely respect her as a player and as a person."

"I've been a starter since I was a freshman, and I tried to gain respect on the field, which I think I've done over the past three years," Shaughnessy said. "Now, I'm a team captain, a leader on the field, and it's my job to support everyone else."

All the way to the state playoffs.

**"She demands excellence out of her teammates. The girls definitely respect her as a player and as a person."**

KEVIN HILTON

Battlefield head coach on Aly Shaughnessy

## TOP FIVE STORYLINES

### COLLEGE BOUND

Battlefield has seven players who have made college commitments. They are seniors Aly Shaughnessy (William & Mary), Dominique Evans (VMI), Kelsey Trace (Longwood), Tessa Klumpp (Washington University-St. Louis), Lexie Jones (Bridgewater), Nikki Jeffers (Shenandoah) and junior Sammie Trone (Radford).

### MAKING AN IMPACT

With only four starters back from last year's 12-6-1 team that reached the Northwest Region quarterfinals, Woodbridge will look to a number of newcomers to complement the returning group of Costello-Mays, junior forward Kailyn Slade (15 goals, 11 assists in her career) and senior defender Katie Bolander, all of whom are two-year starters.

A core of three freshmen will be counted on to step in: midfielder Hanna Hannesdottir, forward Jewel Christian and midfielder Kaila Williams.

All three started in Woodbridge's regular-season opener with Christian scoring two goals and Hannesdottir adding an assist.

Woodbridge also welcomes back junior defender Shannon Archer, who missed all of last season with a torn ACL.



Woodbridge's Kellsey Costello-Mays. (News & Messenger)

### STEPPING IN

Osborn returns six starters, including two four-year starters in Erica Boyle and Katie Novak. Novak, a senior forward, scored 12 goals and had three assists last season, while Boyle, a center midfielder, had four goals and three assists.

Both will be counted on a great deal for their veteran leadership since over half (14) of the Eagles' team are underclassmen.

Helping as well will be junior center back Katie Connolly, a three-year starter, Amy Rollins, a sophomore central midfielder and two-year starter (two goals, two assists) and sophomore outside back Kate Fearon, who recorded five goals and three assists last season. She also saw time in goal, recording 34 saves in three games.

### WELCOME BACK

Hylton returns three former players in Kimberleigh Eng, Lindsay Tacaraya and Valerie Cathcart.

Eng, a junior defender, took last year off to focus on her academics as well as field hockey after starting for the girls soccer team as a freshman. Tacaraya, a junior defender, took a year off to row crew. She played primarily junior varsity as a freshman, but saw some time on the varsity.

And Cathcart, a senior defender, also took time off to focus on academics after playing on the varsity as a freshman. Janessa Henry, a sophomore forward who transferred from Mount Vernon HS, and Caitlin Novak, a senior forward who transferred from North Carolina, are expected to step in as well.

### CONTINUING TO GROW

Manassas Park returns six starters from last year's 6-9 team that also went 4-6 in the Bull Run District, including senior defender/forward Bailey Ponsart, junior midfielder/forward Danya Barrera, junior goalie/defender Kelsey Cirrito, senior midfielder/goalkeeper Michele Katsaris and senior midfielder Xenia Corrales.

Junior midfielder Wendy Alvarez and freshman midfielder Lilian Guerra are also expected to contribute as newcomers for first-year head coach Ryan Toland.

## TEAMS TO WATCH

### BATTLEFIELD

Bobcats have eight returning starters from last year's 14-4-2 team, including seven who are seniors. Six of those players have been on varsity since their freshman year when Battlefield reached the state final in 2008.



### BRENTSVILLE

Another team loaded with experience, the Tigers return eight starters from a team that went 18-1-1 in 2010. Among them are senior defenders Noel Kowalewski (George Mason) and Julie Klimavicz (South Dakota State), sophomore midfielder Victoria Burgess (7 g, 13 a), junior forward Lindsey Bradshaw (10 g, 3 a), junior midfielder Madison Smith (5 g, 3 a) and junior midfielder Bridget Bergquist (3 g, 7 a).



### FOREST PARK

Bruins have the makings of being a serious state-title contender this season with seven starters back from a 16-3-2 team that reached the state quarterfinals in 2010. Among the returners are senior defenders Kara Nay (Radford) and Nicole Blixt (VMI) and sophomore midfielder Vanessa Kovar, who has been named one of the top 100 girls soccer players for the class of 2013 by Top Drawer Soccer.



### GAR-FIELD

Indians return seven starters from last year's 7-6-1 team, including four-year starter Tammy Clark (forward, six goals, two assists) and Bertha Martinez, a two-year starter who anchored a defense that recorded five shutouts.



### HYLTON

Bulldogs return 10 starters from last year's 5-10-1 team, including senior goalie Dani Nonaka, a four-year starter.



## POSTSEASON SCHEDULE

### GROUP AAA CARDINAL DISTRICT

May 24, 26 at Hylton

### CEDAR RUN DISTRICT

May 23, 25 at high seed

### NORTHWEST REGION

May 30 at high seed  
June 1, 3 at high seed

### STATE TOURNAMENT

June 7, 10, 11 (semifinals and finals at Westfield)

### GROUP AA EVERGREEN DISTRICT

May 20 (4 vs. 5 game)  
May 24, 27 at high seed

### REGION II TOURNAMENT

May 30 at high seed  
June 2, 3 at high seed

### STATE TOURNAMENT

June 7, 10, 11 (semifinals and finals at Radford University)

### GROUP A BULL RUN DISTRICT

May 20, 23, 25

### REGION B TOURNAMENT

May 30; June 1, 3

### STATE TOURNAMENT

June 7, 10, 11 (semifinals and finals at Radford University)