

Work Hard & Play **HARDER**

Junior Chloe Laureano kicks back to review the year

Captain Chloe Laureano has big dreams for her soccer career and a history that fuels her hope. Her career started at 4 years old with her father inspiring her to give the sport a try. "I began playing soccer because of my dad. He has always enjoyed watching the English Premier League and the Spanish Premier League (La Liga). Because of this, I decided that I would give soccer a try," Laureano

"Soccer has taught me that no matter how hard you fall, you must always get back up with a stronger mentality."

Junior Chloe Laureano said. She joined the varsity team in seventh grade with this year marking her fifth year on varsity.

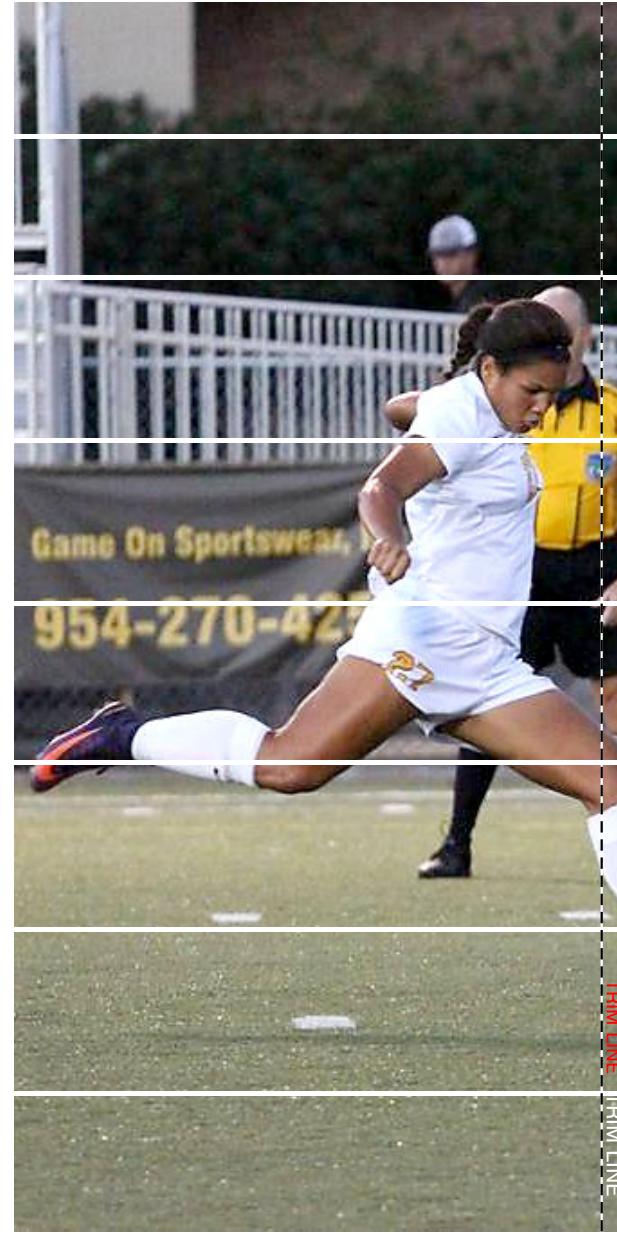
Even with all her experience she feels the pressures of being captain. "Personally, this year is different for me because it's my first year as a captain. Due to this, I feel like I hold a greater

responsibility as a player on this team," Laureano said.

The captain plays outside of school as well. Her other teams include; U17, U20 Puerto Rican National Team and U18 Sunrise Sting SC. Many other players on the team share this quality. Freshman Alyssa Arias plays for Weston FC as well as the school team. "I enjoy the challenge and having friends both on field and off field," Arias said.

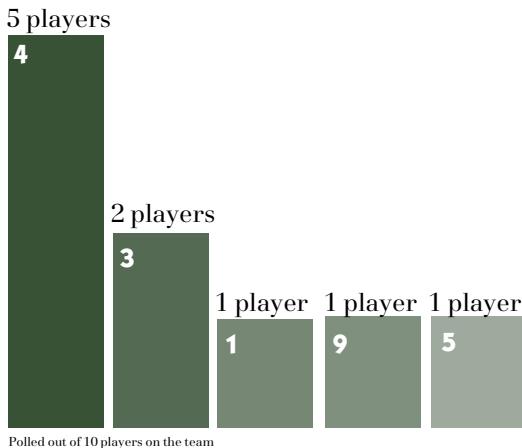
Besides friendship, the girls each have a reason to play that is close to their heart. "What I enjoy most about playing soccer is that it enables me to free my mind and essentially forget about anything I'm stressed about. Because of soccer, I've been able to travel a lot and meet new friends that share a common love for the game," Laureano said.

Now, Laureano looks to the future with the hope to play at a collegiate level and possibly, professionally. "Make sure to appreciate the process instead of only thinking about the result. Stay focused and don't ever let an obstacle get in the way of success."



The Where & When of **Fútbol**

The age the girls started playing



Positions the team loves and plays



Trying to make a goal, junior Jeanne Smith passes the ball to her teammate. No single player could make goals on their own. Teamwork was essential for success. "I enjoy playing soccer because I have such a love for the sport and being on a team just makes it feel like I have a second family," freshman Jenna Lowery said.



"I enjoy the challenge, and having a group of friends on and off the field."
-Freshman Alyssa Arias



"Soccer has taught me to always have good sportsmanship and to keep your head up no matter what."
-Freshman Jenna Lowery



"My most memorable soccer related memory was when we won states when I was in eighth grade."
-Sophomore Gabrielle Scarlett



Junior Chloe Laureano, captain of the girl's varsity soccer team, examines the field after a play to direct her team to the best of her abilities. This year, the team has many younger players, most of whom look up to the older players like Laureano.



Senior Tori Alfero throws the ball back into the game. The team had a few new faces this year such as junior Lauren McDonald, a transfer from Archbishop McCarthy. "What I enjoy most about soccer is being immersed in the sport to the point where I can forget about other issues in life. I've played with many girls I've never spoken to and being able to connect with them through the sport is a beautiful thing," McDonald said.



The girls varsity team poses for a group photo after their years of hard work and practice. Many girls on the team started playing at a young age, ranging from 3 years old to 9 years old. "I started playing soccer around 6 years old. I've played every sport growing up and loved them all but soccer runs through my family," junior Marlee Fray said.

Soccer Stars & The Year's Overview

Senior Tori Alfero



"The thing I enjoy most about soccer is the fact that being on a team feels like having another family. I also am a very competitive person and winning is an amazing feeling. This year we have a ton of injuries and so we lost a few starters. I think what makes this year different is that many players, including myself, have had to step into positions that are unfamiliar to us."

Eighth Grader Savannah Hydes



"Soccer has taught me to be humble and to never put my head down. I am on a spectacular team with great teammates and amazing coaches. And they are always there for me and they always motivate me. I joined soccer because I was always sporty and I wanted to find something to keep me busy and at the same time fun."

3 Questions with Junior Taylor Dobles



Q: What makes this year different from before?

A: This year is different from before because we have a really young squad. I believe a majority of our players are in eighth or ninth grade. Also this year we have several big injuries to previous starters, including myself. I tore my ACL and meniscus at the beginning of the season. I wish I could be out

on the field helping this team win another state title, but me being injured gives the opportunity for an underclassmen to step up, and take advantage of their chance to win a starting position.

Q: What do you expect in future years for soccer?

A: I hope for a strong and speedy recovery as I look forward to being back on the field for my senior season at American Heritage. After I graduate I will be attending Louisiana State University and continuing my soccer career.

Q: What tips would you give to JH and JV team?

A: Tips I would give to the JV and JH Team is to never give up on your dreams. If you work hard enough for what you want, things will pay off in the end one way or another.