



Rutgers Field Hockey

2018 News Clips

Rutgers' 1st Big Ten champion? This 'super dynamic' coach and her 'underdog' team may do it

James Kratch | NJ.com

Meredith Civico didn't have to search much to understand what had to change when she became Rutgers' field hockey coach seven years ago.

She lived it.

Civico (then Long) was a high school All-American and two-time All-State field hockey player at Ocean City High, helping the Red Raiders win three state championships. Her collegiate career took her north, first to Boston University, and then south, winning a national title at Maryland as a transfer. But not to New Brunswick, and for good reason.

"You know what? They didn't recruit me," Civico said, agreeing with a reporter the notion seems a little "insane."

"They didn't recruit me. I never heard from them."

It's safe to say every star high school player in the state hears from the "super dynamic" Civico these days, as sophomore goalkeeper Gianna Glatz describes her.

Fans are beginning to hear a lot more about her team, too. Rutgers is eagerly awaiting its first-ever Big Ten team champion. The field hockey program has announced its potential candidacy loudly so far, its steady climb turning into a swift ascent this fall.

The Scarlet Knights are 5-0 and ranked 17th in the country heading into Friday's conference opener at No. 10 Michigan. Behind a sensational a possession-focused scheme and a 7-save performance in cage by Glatz, the program scored its biggest win ever last weekend, a 1-0 upset of now-No. 5 Princeton. The Scarlet Knights also beat No. 14 St. Joseph's earlier this season.

"It's not a sudden step. This is something we've built on for a while," senior captain Linde Van Schaik said. "We started as an underdog, and for me, it was a chance to have this program grow and be a part of that."

'I WANTED THE JOB MORE THAN ANYBODY'

Civico's road to Rutgers starts, of all places, on the ski slopes of Vermont.

No, really.

Civico missed an entire season due to injury at Maryland, but Terrapins coach Missy Meharg had her stay with the team as a player-coach of sorts while she rehabbed and waited to return to the field. That experience "got the fire lit, sort of speak," Civico said. But while she enjoyed coaching, she did not yet know she wanted to pursue it full-time, or what she wanted to do at all, after graduation.

Civico, who grew up surfing, was snowboarding with friends. She asked how difficult it would be to get an instructor position. She was offered a job. Her family owned a place at Sugarbush. So she went.

It was at work she met the University of Vermont field hockey coaching staff.

“They were looking for people to coach camps. I reached out, and they looked at my background and said, ‘Absolutely,’” Civico said. “I started out as a volunteer there and had a blast. Vermont had been a team struggling for a couple of years, but had the players. I was young, right out of college, and I had so much fun, and saw the impact I could have as a young coach.”

The Catamounts had two winning seasons and a .500 campaign in Civico’s three years on staff. She then spent a year at Towson before joining the Rutgers staff in 2010.

Rutgers went a combined 13-25 in Civico’s two years as an assistant. Then-athletics director Tim Perneti dismissed head coach Liz Tchou after the 2011 season and named Civico, then just 28, the interim head coach.

She was determined to make her new role permanent.

“I was the kid on the block, but I was ready for it though. I was so excited about the potential of this program. I’ve always looked at Rutgers and thought they really have everything they need to be successful,” she said.

“I interviewed, and I was so prepared. I knew that I wanted the job more than anybody else. I really didn’t think anybody else was going to be more prepared than I was, and know more about the program. Know more about Rutgers. I was confident. At the end of the day, I know what I bring. I know what my strengths are.”

Two months later, Civico was hired.

'IT'S A RUSH'

It was pouring Wednesday afternoon. But when an alarm started blaring, alerting that lightning was in the area, Civico more or less had to drag her team off the turf.

There was a four-team intra-squad tournament underway, and it wasn’t decided.

Competition is key to the program’s rise. But it wasn’t always that way. Rutgers field hockey was in “a very different place” when Civico took over.

“I knew what I was getting myself into, because I had been the assistant coach for two years. I knew where we were starting, and I knew, ‘Wow, we’ve got a way to go,’” she said. “We knew we had to recruit, and we knew we had to change the culture of the program. Make it a program where people wanted to be a part of it, people wanted to compete.”

Rutgers was still in the Big East when Civico took over, struggling to stay out of the league basement. The focus was on competing in everything the team could, while purposely scheduling tough so the player could see what it takes to compete at the highest level. The move to the Big Ten, which is “absolutely the toughest conference in the country,” Civico said, brought another challenge.

There was player buy-in from the start. But Rutgers has never finished better than 9-9 under Civico, partly due to its schedule.

“I think that is a little bit frustrating,” she admitted. “But we knew we had to play some tough opponents to get better.”

The talent has also gotten better. Civico has had success recruiting internationally, a theme for most top programs nationally, with players from Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, New and Zealand on the roster.

Perhaps more importantly, 12 of the 21 players are from New Jersey, and from some of the state's top high school programs, after choosing a Big Ten opportunity close to home. Including the best player in state history.

Austyn Cuneo is the all-time national high school scoring leader. She didn't lose a game during her historic four-year career at powerhouse Eastern High in Voorhees.

Cuneo originally signed with six-time national champion North Carolina, the current No. 1-ranked team, but Cuneo grew up around Civico and Rutgers due to the program's heavy involvement in the grassroots developmental scene.

But Cuneo, a redshirt junior, decided she wanted a change of scenery. She came home, giving the program an instant credibility boost. Cuneo is healthy after battling through injuries and three surgeries. She leads the team in goals with four, including the lone goal against Princeton.

"It's fun to be the underdog, build a program and shock people," Cuneo said. "It's not as fun when you're constantly at the top. It's more fun to chase that top person down."

"It's a rush. We've come such a long way," added Glatz, who played at Shawnee High. "I wanted to come to a school that didn't already have all these big wins and these big titles. I wanted to be a part of something to make it grow. Have the program be better when I left it than when I came into it."

'IT CAN BE DONE HERE'

Someone has to win the first Big Ten title at Rutgers.

Civico won't deny she's considered the idea it might be her team.

"Absolutely. A hundred percent. I wouldn't be a coach if I didn't. I come off as really relaxed and cool, but I'm probably one of the most competitive people out there," she said. "That's our objective. We want to compete for championships and win titles. But I think we know it's a process."

Civico points to the win over Princeton as an example. The Tigers outshot Rutgers 13-2, including 11-1 in the second half. The bulk of those shots came in the final 20 or so minutes when Rutgers experienced the frenetic flurry that a good team can summon when trying to avoid an upset. It was a learning experience for a team still learning to win consistently.

"We've got to walk before we run, sort of speak. But I think it can be done here," Civico said. "I think if you get the right group of players, people, coaches and staff around a team, and it can be done here. I totally believe that."

She also realizes, after seven years of process, this could be it. You never know when a team is truly going to breakthrough until it does. And the transitive property of rankings never works terribly well. But consider the latest national coaches poll: Rutgers is No. 17. It plays in a league with Nos. 3, 6 10, 11 and 16. Rutgers just beat No. 5, and No. 5 has already beaten Nos. 4 and 6.

When the nine-team conference tournament begins in October, the Scarlet Knights will have a shot.

"You never know what can happen," Civico said. "You never know with injuries, what else could happen. You've just got to stay in the moment, stay focused."

"We're close, but we can talk at the end of the season and see if we're there," van Schaik cautioned. "This is just the first few steps."

Rutgers Plays UConn in NCAA Tournament's First Round on Friday **Matt Howe | Daily Targum**

On Sunday night, the NCAA Field Hockey Tournament selection show saved one of its best moments for last. Down to its last bracket, and its last at-large bid, the Rutgers field hockey team anxiously huddled together to hear its name called.

"Now for the final at-large in the tournament," the host of the selection show said. "And it belongs to Rutgers." Pandemonium ensued. The No. 10 Scarlet Knights would be going to their first NCAA Tournament in 32 years.

A video was captured of the moment, and posted on the Rutgers field hockey Twitter page.

The video showed the exact moment the entire team found out they had made the tournament, with all the players jumping out of their seats and screaming in unison. The footage has been viewed over 14,000 times.

"It was amazing, there was so much suspense building up to it especially since we were called nearly last," said sophomore goalkeeper and First Team All-Big Ten selection Gianna Glatz. "It was super emotional just to be with your best friends, your sisters, and have that moment of pure enjoyment, it was just fantastic."

But before the joy, came nerves.

The Knights' other First Team All-Big Ten selection, sophomore midfielder Daphne Groothuis, initially described the moment as suspenseful, but then as one of the best moments of her life.

The players weren't the only ones who were really happy, as it was also the first time head coach Meredith Civico had qualified one of her teams.

"Sunday night was nerve-racking, exciting, genuine surprise," Civico said. "I think the coaching staff knew in theory that we had the RPI, we had the strength of schedule, we had the record, but we didn't know for certain. But I think being selected is a testament to this team and their performance this season."

The road to the NCAA Tournament wasn't the easiest, as Rutgers had an incredibly tough schedule this season. Along the way, it faced 10 ranked opponents.

Nonetheless, they shined when they needed to, defeating ranked teams like St. Joe's, Delaware, Princeton, Northwestern and Iowa. This was a major factor in helping the Knights qualify for the tournament.

"The people on these committees do a really great job, and I feel we were justly rewarded for a great season," Civico said.

A hiccup for Rutgers came in the quarterfinal round of the Big Ten Tournament, where they lost in double overtime to Ohio State. It was their second loss of the season to Ohio State, who did not end up qualifying for the NCAA Tournament with an RPI of 21. The Knights finished the season with an RPI of 10.

Clearly, the selection committee took Rutgers' entire body of work into consideration, and not just its Big Ten tournament. Last season, all four Big Ten Tournament semi-finalists were selected for the NCAA's.

"We could have performed better in the Big Ten Tournament, and I think they were disappointed in their performance," Civico said. "I think that's fueling the fire into this game, they've trained really well this week and they're really focused."

In the first round of the tournament, the Knights will take on UConn, the defending national champions. The Huskies (18-3) finished the season with the fourth best RPI in the country.

Civico feels confident with Rutgers' scouting ability and matchup with UConn, although it will be a difficult task.

"We know they're a quality opponent, they've got a couple of really great individuals," Civico said. "We're familiar with UConn which is nice, we've scrimmaged them the past two preseasons. I think they are a team that suits us."

Civico mentioned that the Huskies play a similar game to her team. They play with patience and create open spaces on controlled possessions.

When asked about the game plan to attack the Huskies, Civico mentioned the team had made several changes in preparation for their first round matchup, such as personnel changes.

Obviously, it is an incredible feat for the Knights to qualify for the tournament, but now that they are here, winning it all is the goal. The game will be played in College Park, Md. The winner will take on the winner of No. 2 seed Maryland and Albany.

"It's four games and it's do or die," Civico said. "The team is so up for it."

#10 Rutgers Field Hockey Looks Ahead to Big Ten Tournament

Namrita Singh | On the Banks

Even before the season began, there was a buzz surrounding the Rutgers Field Hockey program. Last season, they went 9-9 overall and 3-5 in conference before falling 4-3 to Northwestern in the first round of the Big Ten Tournament. But each season, there has been steady progress and the team is ready to take the next step.

Seeking its first NCAA tourney bid in 32 years, Rutgers Field Hockey finished the 2018 regular season with a 13-4 overall record and a 4-4 conference record. They had a program record five ranked wins and four conference victories, and they finished the season on a five-game winning streak. The team's nine shutouts are the most they've had in a single season since they also had nine in 1993. Their national ranking at 10th this week in the latest [coaches poll](#) is the highest in program history. Their [RPI ranking](#) this week is 7th in the country as well.

Rutgers began the regular season with wins at home over Richmond, Hofstra, #18 St. Joe's, Cornell, and #6 Princeton. The 1-0 victory over Princeton was the highest ranked win in program history. They began conference play on the road and would lose their first game of the season to #10 Michigan, 3-1.

The Scarlet Knights would bounce back against Longwood and Michigan State before falling in a tight penalty shootout to then #23 Ohio State, 4-3. They also lost a close 3-2 game to #7 Penn State but defeated #19 Delaware on the road, 2-1.

Their fourth and last loss of the season would come at #2 Maryland, 3-1; they were not shut out once this season. Rutgers would conclude with five straight wins over Georgetown (7-0), #15 Northwestern (2-1), Indiana (4-0), #7 Iowa (1-0), and American (1-0 OT).

When I spoke to senior Nikki Profita earlier in the season, she mentioned that this season is all about "trusting the process" and so far, it seems to be working. When I asked Head Coach Meredith Civico about "trusting the process", she spoke about how preparation for this season really began last spring and how the veterans on this team embraced the newcomers, making the transition almost seamless.

Civico said, "I think that the culture this team has, I think that chemistry and that closeness is a big part of our process. I think that the next piece is really just taking every day day-by-day and taking every game as it comes. Not getting caught up in the outcome and not getting caught up in the big picture but just staying very focused and very present in the moment. I think that comes from the team and that comes from the captains and really comes from Nikki [Profita] and Linde [van Schaik] in particular as well as the returning players."

Sophomore goalkeeper Gianna Glatz, a key returning player, is one of the biggest reasons the Scarlet Knights have been as successful as they have. She has started every single game this season and her nine shutouts lead the country. She has an impressive 1.07 goals against average (seventh in the country and second in the Big Ten) and a .795 save percentage (third in the country and first in the conference). Glatz was named Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week this past week for the third time this season, along with numerous other honors, national recognition.

Civico describes meeting Glatz for the first time when she was in middle school and how she *knew* that Glatz was going to be a big part of this program's future: "She came up to me at a clinic or a camp and asked if we were recruiting a goalkeeper. I looked at her and said to her, 'Why, yes we are' and right away from that moment we knew that having Gianna on our campus when she was that old, she was going to be a player who was going to impact our program."

Watching Glatz on the field makes you feel like she's been playing for decades. Her poise and composure are unparalleled. Civico says, "She's always, regardless of her age, been somebody who's approached the game in a really competitive and professional manner. She's a player that the coaching staff and the team has a lot of trust in. She's a fantastic goalkeeper and I think she's only going to get better."

Sophomore midfielder Daphne Groothuis finished the regular season as the team's leading scorer with 12 goals and 37 points. She has the sixth most points and seventh most goals in an individual season in program history. She always seems to come through in big moments, including scoring the overtime

winner against American, and thrives in those situations. Groothuis has been a consistent offensive powerhouse and is only going to get better (which should scare opposing goaltenders).

When asked about Groothuis and her impact, Civico says, “Probably one of the most competitive players on the team and I think she trains every single day the way she plays in games. She just has such good energy and competitive and I think she’s really matured over this last year. She has players around her that compliment her and she compliments them.”

One of the players Groothuis has incredible chemistry with is senior and Captain Linde van Schaik, who was second in team scoring with 20 points, a career high. van Schaik has started all 69 games of her Rutgers career, and ranks seventh all-time in goals and points in program history. She was also selected for the NFHCA Senior Game.

van Schaik is a tremendous leader both on and off the field. Civico remarks, “Linde is someone who has taken every experience, positive and negative, and has learned from it and has come out wiser and stronger. She really has the respect of her teammates and our coaches and she’s earned that respect and she’s a competitor. She wants to win and she knows the game and I think she’s done such a great job leading this group.”

The most exciting thing about this team is that they’re young and they’re only going to continue to improve. They’re getting scoring across the board from underclassmen who are going to be a part of this program for a few years. There is a solid corps who will do bigger and better things in the years to come.

But they still have business to take care of this season. The Scarlet Knights are seeded #5 for the Big Ten Tournament and they will look to avenge their regular season loss when they face #4 seeded Ohio State Sunday afternoon at Columbus in the opening round.

They faced each other on September 23rd in Piscataway and the game was a back-and-forth affair with the Buckeyes scoring first and the Scarlet Knights immediately responding. Ohio State would take the lead again but Rutgers would score again to tie and then take the lead late in the first half but Ohio State would tie it in the second. There were two scoreless overtimes and the game would go to a penalty shootout; both teams scored four times out of the first five opportunities (next to score would win) and the Buckeyes escaped with a win. Profita had a two-goal game and Glatz made nine saves; Groothuis also scored.

Let’s hope that Sunday’s game has a different outcome and Rutgers moves one step closer to the NCAA Tournament.

#13 Rutgers Field Hockey Defeats American 1-0 in OT for Fifth Straight Victory **Aaron Breitman | On the Banks**

The #13th ranked Rutgers field hockey team is peaking at the perfect time, as they won its fifth straight contest on Sunday in the regular season finale. After defeating #7 Iowa on Friday, the Scarlet Knights were able to outlast American (7-7) as star Daphne Groothuis scored the game winner in overtime. It was her team best 12th goal of the season, which is the seventh most in program history. It was also an NCAA best ninth shutout for Rutgers, who finished the regular season at 13-4, including 4-4 Big Ten play.

After the victory, head coach Meredith Civico said, "I'm really pleased with how the team battled. We knew that it would be a tough game. We had such a big win on Friday against Iowa, that took a lot of energy out of the team." Civico continued, "American is a really good team and they've been battling with the top teams in the country. The team just stayed focused and calm despite the frustration of not getting the outcomes they wanted. And they got it done in overtime. I'm really pleased with the effort. I thought our overtime group was outstanding. Daphne's finish on that goal was great, it was just gritty, digging in and finding a way to win."

The fact that it was senior day made it that much more of an emotional game for Rutgers. Civico added, "There's definitely a lot of emotions. It was great to celebrate them today. This team is so excited about this group of seniors. We really want to keep playing for them."

Now the postseason begins, as Rutgers hopes to make the 18-team NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1986. They entered last week ranked 13th in the coaches poll and 11th in the RPI rankings. Both polls should be updated on Tuesday. Rutgers can help their cause even more with a strong showing in the Big Ten Tournament, which begins this weekend. The Scarlet Knights are seeded 5th and will face a rematch against 4th seeded Ohio State (11-7; 4-4), who Rutgers lost to 4-3 in a shootout on September 23rd. The game will take place on Sunday, October 28th at Ohio State, with the time to be determined.

#13 Rutgers Field Hockey Finishes B1g Regular Season with 1-0 Victory over #7 Iowa

Aaron Breitman | On the Banks

The landmark season for the #13th ranked Rutgers Field Hockey team continued on Friday afternoon with an upset 1-0 victory over #7 Iowa. It was the Big Ten regular season finale for the Scarlet Knights, who took the lead in the 21st minute of the first half. Daphne Groothuis took the shot from the top of the circle and Nikki Profita got a stick on it to redirect into the net for what was ultimately the game winning goal.

That was all the Rutgers defense needed, as they held the Hawkeyes in check for an NCAA leading eighth shutout this season. Iowa outshot Rutgers 10-3 in the game and 6-0 in the second half, but entire defense came up huge in the victory. They were led by Big Ten and National Defensive Player of the Week, goalkeeper Gianna Glatz. She had three saves in the contest with none bigger than this denial on a penalty stroke with just nine minutes left in the game. She jumped to block Katie Birch's shot aimed at the top corner of the net, but Glatz blocked it away.

Iowa continued to push and had five corners, but the Rutgers defense held strong to preserve the win. It was just the second time in 17 games this season that Iowa failed to score.

Head coach Meredith Civico had this say after the program's record fourth Big Ten victory:

"This was a great result. We knew it was going to be a tough game. Iowa is a really good team this year. We're a really good team this year. So we knew it would be a tight game. I'm really proud of the team for executing on our chances and being really tough and gritty defensively. We've proved that we can compete with anybody, and that gives us a lot of confidence going into the Big Ten Tournament."

"The last moments were really nerve-wracking, but we have so much confidence in that defensive penalty corner unit. We had scouted Iowa and we really knew this game could come down to that. The

coaching staff helped do an excellent job in training this week preparing them for that, and we knew that they were really good and ready for that.”

Profita spoke about her eighth goal of the season and fourth in her last four games:

“It was great to get that goal early and be up one in that early phase of the game. It was critical for us to keep that intensity going. That was a huge early boost of confidence. Winning this is awesome. This team doesn’t have any limitations this year on what we can accomplish, and winning this game really shows that.”

Glatz talked about what this victory meant for this team:

“This win puts us in such a great place, knowing that Iowa is a top-10 team. This shows what we can do against those quality of teams. I knew if I saved that stroke, I could keep us in the game. The team had my back, and I had to have theirs. We got it done and now we can continue to feed off this energy and we know how to get the job done.”

Rutgers is now 12-4 on the season and finished 4-4 in Big Ten play. This was a huge win in regard to the program’s quest for its first NCAA bid in 32 years, as Rutgers had an RPI ranking of 11 and Iowa was 12 entering this game. With an 18 team field, this victory helps boost the resume of Rutgers in a major way. It was their fifth win over a ranked opponent this season and second over a top ten team. They close out the regular season on Sunday at home at 2 p.m. against American on Senior Day.

Decisive 2 games will seal No. 13 Rutgers’ fate for postseason

Matthew Howe | Daily Targum

With just two regular season games remaining on the year, it has already been a historic season for the Rutgers field hockey team. It has achieved something no other team has achieved under head coach Meredith Civico — winning 10 games.

And now the Scarlet Knights have won 11.

“This team believes in themselves as a team,” Civico said. “We knew this group was special beginning last spring, and they really committed over the summer and worked really hard. I think their mentality as well, their focus has always been one game at a time and that’s worked really well for us.”

Of those 11 wins, seven have been shutouts, tying for the national lead.

The team also has four wins against ranked opponents this season, the most ever ranked wins in the entire program's history.

“The success has come from our team dynamic,” said senior forward Linde van Schaik. “I think everyone is so close, and everyone wants to fight for one another and that’s a huge reason for our team's success this season.”

The seven shutouts have a lot to do with sophomore goalkeeper Gianna Glatz’s play this year, as she has twice been named Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week.

Glatz was also just named the National Defensive Player of the Week after allowing just 1 goal over the last two games.

"It's really exciting to be a part of something like that," Glatz said about being on a team that has shut out seven teams this season. "It just shows our defense is super fluid, and we're just playing off of one another very well."

As far as Big Ten games go, Rutgers is 3-4, tying last season's win total, but still has one game remaining on Friday against No. 7 Iowa.

That conference game will carry serious seeding implications for the Big Ten Tournament. Currently, the Hawkeyes are fourth in the Big Ten with a 4-3 conference record, while the Knights are in sixth.

A win over Iowa would put both teams at 4-4, and give Rutgers the higher seed due to the head-to-head win being the tiebreaker. Out of the nine Big Ten schools that have field hockey teams, the top four seeds are guaranteed a home quarterfinal game in the Big Ten Tournament.

Sitting in between the Hawkeyes and Knights at fifth is Ohio State, who owns a 3-3 conference record. The Buckeyes also have two Big Ten games remaining, so they can solidify that fourth spot with wins over Michigan and Michigan State.

In order to have any sort of shot at a home quarterfinal game, Rutgers needs to take care of business against Iowa on Friday. Even then, it would need Ohio State to lose out in its last two games to prevent it from getting to four or five Big Ten wins. That seems considerably unlikely given the fact that the Spartans are 0-7 in conference games.

"First things first, we need to beat Iowa," Civico said. "From there, we're going to have to see how things shake out. I think it's going to come down to this last (Big Ten) game, and everyone else's results this last weekend. I don't think we're going to know the seeding until Sunday after the last Big Ten matches have been played."

One thing is certain, and that is the Knights are going to have to be on their "A" game no matter who they play. The Big Ten is an ultra competitive conference where any team can beat anyone on any given day.

The Big Ten Tournament will also be a deciding factor for Rutgers to secure a bid to the field of 18 for the NCAA Tournament held in Louisville, Ky.

The easiest way to qualify would be to win the conference tournament, as 10 teams automatically qualify for the tournament by winning their respective conference. Eight other teams receive at-large bids based on their season record and other factors.

Last season, four Big Ten teams qualified for the NCAA Tournament. All four teams who qualified were in the Big Ten semifinals, including Northwestern, who beat the Knights in the quarterfinals.

A loss in the quarterfinals this year would almost surely seal the same fate for Rutgers, while a win would give them a strong case for qualifying for the NCAA Tournament.

"We want to be a program that competes for championships, that competes for Big Ten championships," Civico said. "If we want to be in a position to advance and continue playing in to November, we've got to win that game on Friday, and that will set us up in the Big Ten and potentially NCAA play."

Rutgers' Linde van Schaik Named to NFHCA Senior Game

Joe O'Gormon | Trentonian

As the Scarlet Knights are preparing for the final regular season games this weekend, they learned that back Linde van Schaik has been selected to play in the Senior game to be held in Louisville following the NCAA Semifinals.

The talented van Schaik, who hails from Amsterdam, has started all 69 games in her career and has 24 goals, 17 assists and 65 points. She ranks seventh on the all-time list in goals and points.

Gianna Glantz, the Rutgers sophomore goalie, was named the Big Ten and NFHCA National Defensive Player of the Week. She allowed just one goal in two road wins for Rutgers last weekend.

This week the No. 13 Scarlet Knights (11-4, 3-4 Big Ten), who continue to rise up in the national rankings, finish the regular season at home with No. 7 Iowa (12-4, 4-3 Big Ten) on Friday and then American (7-5) comes to Piscataway on Sunday for Senior Day.

The Big Ten Tournament begins next weekend.

No. 14 Rutgers passes 10 wins for 1st time since 2008

Matthew Howe | Daily Targum

For the first time since 2008, the Rutgers field hockey team has won 10 games in a season. And, after this 2-0 weekend, it currently has 11 wins on the season.

The No. 14 Scarlet Knights (11-4, 3-4), have two games remaining of their season before the Big Ten Tournament and maybe even the NCAA Tournament.

This past weekend started with one of the biggest games of the season, squaring off against No. 15 Northwestern in Evanston, Ill. The Wildcats (8-8, 3-4) beat Rutgers twice last year, with one of those losses ending the Knights' season in the Big Ten Tournament.

This time things ended differently. Rutgers came away with a 2-1 victory after scoring 2 goals within the first 20 minutes of the game.

Senior backfielder Linde van Schaik got on the scoreboard first for the Knights around the 8-minute mark. Rutgers was able to capitalize off of a penalty corner for the score.

After its initial two shots on net were stopped, van Schaik was able to scoop one up and over the goalkeeper to put the Knights ahead 1-0.

Van Schaik's goal was her 7th of the season and 24th of her career. She currently resides with 65 career points, an impressive career here on the Banks.

In the 20th minute of the game, who else but sophomore midfielder Daphne Groothuis scored her team-leading 9th goal of the season. Groothuis intercepted an errant Northwestern pass, dribbled around defenders before firing off a shot that found the back of the box.

The Wildcats would score their only goal of the game at the 23-minute mark. In the second half of play, Rutgers staved off five penalty corners from Northwestern en route to victory.

The win gave head coach Meredith Civico her first 10-win season since taking over as coach of the Knights seven years ago. It was also Rutgers' first-ever win over the Wildcats in program history.

"I'm so proud of the effort our team put forth today. We played front foot hockey for the first half and took our chances. But Northwestern is a very good team and we knew they would come out hard in the second half," Civico said. "It was a battle but we held strong and our defensive corner unit was outstanding when it mattered."

After the huge win on Friday, the Knights traveled from Illinois to Indiana to take on the Hoosiers (4-11, 1-6). The result was a decisive 4-0 Rutgers victory that saw 2 goals from Groothuis and 2 goals from senior midfielder Nikki Profita.

With the 2 goals, Groothuis extended her goal total to 11 on the season, while also tallying 33 points. She now holds possession of seventh all-time for points in a season for the Knights.

Coming into this season with no career goals, Profita has had an impressive senior season, scoring 7 goals thus far. She also has two multi-goal games this season.

The win also gave Rutgers its seventh shutout of the season, which is tied for the national lead. The Knights now have three Big Ten wins, tying last season's conference win total.

"Today our focus was to just move the ball and play two-touch as much as possible. We knew we needed to try and open up the field. I thought the team did an excellent job executing the game plan. There were some excellent individual performances, as well," Civico said. "This team has done a great job staying focused on just one game at a time. We just stayed disciplined and executed the game plan. I thought they did an excellent job today."

With a mere two games remaining on the schedule for Rutgers, it has a chance to win 13 games, as well as pick up another ranked Big Ten win on the season against No. 8 Iowa on Friday.

The team will finish its season at home against American on Sunday for senior day.

"We need to just stay focused and present in the moment, heading into the last weekend and then the Big Ten Tournament. I'm just really excited about the way the team is playing right now," Civico said.

No. 14 Rutgers Field Hockey Knocks Off No. 15 Northwestern on the Road 2-1

Aaron Breitman | On the Banks

The Rutgers Field Hockey team, playing with its highest ranking in program history at #14, won a hard fought game by the score of 2-1 at #15 Northwestern on Friday. It was the fourth victory over a ranked opponent this season, which is a program record.

The Scarlet Knights scored first thanks to Linda van Schaik, who netted her seventh goal of the season.

Rutgers continued to put pressure on the host and Daphne Groothuis scored after forcing a turnover and converted to take a 2-0 first half lead. It was Groothuis' ninth goal of the season, which leads the team.

Northwestern answered with a goal of their own later in the opening frame. However, the defense of Rutgers held strong in the second half as goalkeeper Gianna Glatz made three saves in the contest.

Rutgers is now 10-4 on the season and has the most wins in head coach Meredith Covico's seven year tenure with the program. She had this say after the victory:

"I'm so proud of the effort our team put forth today. We played front foot hockey for the first half and took our chances. But Northwestern is a very good team and we knew they would come out hard in the second half. It was a battle but we held strong and our defensive corner unit was outstanding when it mattered."

It's been a season of firsts, as the field hockey team has earned their highest ranking in program history and have beaten more ranked teams than ever before.

Rutgers will travel to Indiana (4-10; 1-5) on Sunday for senior day for the Hoosiers. With just three regular season games remaining. The Scarlet Knights are on the cusp of its first NCAA Tournament berth since 1986. They are ranked #11th in the latest RPI rankings that were released earlier this week. They'll face #8 Iowa (12-3; 4-2) at home on October 19th in the last Big Ten match before ending the regular season against American (7-4) on October 21st.

Big Test for Rutgers at Northwestern

Joe O'Gormon | Trentonian

The Scarlet Knights (9-4, 1-4 Big Ten) have earned the highest national ranking in the program's history as they are No. 14 in the nation and this weekend will be a good test as they travel to No. 15 Northwestern (8-6, 3-2 Big Ten) on Friday Indiana (4-9, 1-4 Big Ten) on Saturday.

Rutgers is coming off a very impressive 7-0 win over Georgetown and will look to carry the momentum into Northwestern.

"This was a good win," said Rutgers coach Meredith Civico, on the Rutgers press release. "To get seven goals from so many different goal scorers was excellent. The performance by both Gianna Glatz and Amanda Lamb in goal to secure the shutout was great. We had a lot of players contributing today and developing that depth has been key."

Rutgers is led by Daphne Groothuis with eight goals and a conference best 11 assists. Groothuis is second in the conference in points with 27.

Rutgers Field Hockey Continues Push for First NCAA Bid in 32 Years

Aaron Breitman | On the Banks

In what has been an impressive season so far for the Rutgers field hockey team, another first was accomplished on Tuesday. In this week's NFCHA Coaches Poll, the Scarlet Knights received their highest ranking ever, moving up two spots to #15th in the country.

Rutgers is coming off a weekend where they split two games, both of which were against ranked opponents. #7 Penn State (8-3; 3-1) came to Piscataway and escaped with a 3-2 victory after holding a 22-12 advantage in shots in the contest.

Rutgers went on the road two days later and defeated then #19 Delaware on Sunday afternoon in what was a defensive battle. Despite being outshot 10-5, they gutted out a 2-1 victory, their first road win over a ranked opponent since 2013.

Rutgers (8-3; 1-3) is now 3-3 against ranked foes this season. Their highest ranked win in program history took place in September, as the Scarlet Knights defeated then #6 Princeton 1-0 at home. The Tigers are 8-3 on the season as well and currently ranked #5th in the latest coaches poll.

The Big Ten is stacked with quality teams, as seven squads are ranked in the top 25 coaches poll released on Tuesday. Rutgers now gears up for its biggest game of the season, as they visit undefeated #2 Maryland (12-0; 3-0) this Friday afternoon. The Scarlet Knights are looking for their first ever win over the Terps since joining the Big Ten in 2014, losing all five previous meetings.

While a Big Ten regular season title is out of reach with four conference matches remaining, Rutgers is inching towards earning its first berth to the NCAA Tournament since 1986. RU has only earned an NCAA bid twice ever, the first coming in 1984.

The latest RPI Rankings after Sunday's action have Rutgers at #16th. They own two victories over programs ranked in the top ten in Princeton at #4 and St. Joseph's at #9. There are plenty of opportunities to boost their RPI in the month of October, as future opponents include #1 Maryland, #12 Northwestern and #13 Iowa. Only 18 teams are selected for the NCAA Tournament, so Rutgers needs to finish this season strong in order to secure it's first bid in over three decades. They almost made it last season, but finished right outside the bubble with a 9-9 record and RPI ranking of #20.

The Scarlet Knights have benefited from a balanced scoring attack this season, as five players have tallied at least four goals each. They are led by sophomore midfielder Daphne Groothuis who has 21 total points total with 6 goals and 9 assists, which is the fourth most in the country. Austyn Cuneo (5 goals, 2 assists) and Linde van Schaik (4 goals, 4 assists) each have 12 points. In goal, Gianna Glatz has produced a 0.74 save percentage and is allowing just 1.26 goals per contest. Both marks are third best in the Big Ten.

In addition to Friday's showdown at #2 Maryland, Rutgers will have a quick turnaround on Sunday afternoon at home against Georgetown (8-3).

Rutgers goes 1-1 over weekend road trip

Matt Howe | Daily Targum

Another weekend is in the books for the Rutgers field hockey team, and for the third weekend in a row, the No. 17 Scarlet Knights came out of the weekend having gone 1-1. The 1-1 split moves their record to 8-3 on the season.

For both games this weekend, Rutgers faced off against ranked opponents. On Friday, the Knights hosted No. 7 Penn State for their fourth ranked opponent in their last six games.

After 70 minutes of play, the Nittany Lions escaped Piscataway with a hard fought 3-2 victory. After dominating the first half of play and taking a 2-0 lead into halftime, Rutgers made it a 2-1 game just 10 minutes into the second half.

The Knights' first goal of the game was scored by senior midfielder Nikki Profita, assisted by sophomore midfielder Gianna Mancini. The goal was Profita's fourth of the season.

“Even though this wasn’t the outcome we wanted, we’re going to learn from this,” Profita said. “We’re going to watch the tape and figure out what positives we can take away from this and what we need to do better going forward.”

Penn State outshot Rutgers 22-12 in the contest, as well as taking six corners to the Knights’ three.

After the Lions made it a 3-1 game in the 56th minute, Rutgers showed its fight by scoring off its second corner of the game. Profita fired a shot that was saved by Penn State's goalkeeper, but junior backfielder Emily Howarth was able to secure the rebound and score her first career goal.

Now down 3-2, the Knights continued to apply pressure until the end of the game, much to the dismay of Lions head coach Charlene Morett, who was audibly annoyed with her team on the sideline.

In the final two minutes of the game, Rutgers pulled sophomore goalkeeper Gianna Glatz, and brought on an extra attacker to try and tie the game. In the last minute of the game, the Knights were awarded a corner that they were unable to convert on, and the game ended.

Glatz recorded a career high 12 saves in the game. Profita has earned four goals and two assists, which now give her 10 points on the season — good enough for third best on the team.

“I thought we played hard, and applied pressure especially in the second half,” said head coach Meredith Civico after the game. “In the first half we weren’t executing our gameplan. The second half we played much better hockey, and really battled as a team. But at the end of the day we had a few costly mistakes and that’s why we lost.”

After Friday’s loss, the team traveled to Newark, Delaware to take on the No. 19 Blue Hens (5-6). After quickly going down 1-0 in the first half, senior backfielder Linde van Schaik knotted the score at one off of a penalty corner. Sophomore forward Alanna Gollotto and sophomore midfielder Daphne Groothuis tallied the assist on the play.

Tied at 1-1 going into the half, Rutgers quickly scored the go-ahead goal just two minutes into the second half. The goal was scored by sophomore midfielder Cassidy Shetler, her fourth of the season.

In the last 5 minutes of the game, Delaware was persistent in trying to tie the game. Glatz came up huge, making three consecutive saves on three consecutive Blue Hens corners. The 2-1 victory was the Knights' third win against a ranked opponent this season.

"I thought the team played really well against a strong Delaware team. We executed the game plan and scored 2 great goals," Civico said.

Rutgers resumes action on Friday on the road against No. 3 Maryland, who is currently undefeated at 12-0 on the season.

This will surely be the Knights’ biggest test to date.

“It was a fantastic response to our last match and now we can look to take this momentum into Friday's game against Maryland," Civico said.

Rutgers splits Big Ten Weekend

Matt Howe | Daily Targum

Hosting a pair of Big Ten opponents this weekend, the Rutgers field hockey team left the weekend going 1-1, beating Michigan State and falling to Ohio State in a shootout.

The first game, which took place on Friday, was a decisive 5-1 victory over the Spartans (4-7). The No. 9 Scarlet Knights (7-2, 1-2) dominated in shots (14-2), as well as corners (4-1).

Senior backfielder Linde van Schaik got things started for Rutgers when she scored 18 minutes into the game, assisted by sophomore midfielder Daphne Groothuis. Three minutes later, sophomore midfielder Gracey Butsack made it 2-0 when she scored her 1st goal of the season that was assisted by junior forward Alanna Gollotto.

"This feels so good," Butsack said, according to scarletknights.com. "It was great to be able to contribute to help the team to a win. We played really well together, just simple hockey, connecting on short passes. We used each other well and that led to this result."

Taking a 2-0 lead into halftime, the Knights wasted no time opening up the scoring in the second half. Two minutes in, Gollotto added to her assist earlier in the game by scoring her 3rd goal of the season. Van Schaik earned the assist on the play.

Scoring certainly seemed to come in bunches in this game, as just 3 minutes after Gollotto's goal, junior forward Austyn Cuneo netted a goal of her own carrying the ball down the side of the field before finding the back of the box.

After Michigan State finally got on the scoreboard to make it 4-1, Rutgers scored its 5th and final goal of the day with a shot from junior forward Nikki Santore. Groothuis tallied the assist on the goal.

Three former Eastern Regional Vikings scored in the game, as Gollotto, Cuneo and Santore all netted a goal.

"I'm really pleased with the team's overall performance. I thought we played some excellent hockey," said head coach Meredith Civico, according to scarletknights.com. "We scored some really great goals. I really felt like it was a total team effort and everybody contributed to the win, which I thought was really good for the team and really good for our confidence going into Sunday's matchup."

But against the Buckeyes, the Knights lost a thrilling game falling just short, losing 4-3 after a shootout.

The first half of the game was extremely action packed, as there were 5 goals scored between the two teams during the 35 minutes. In the second half, the action slowed down as only 1 goal was scored and then the final goal in the shootout.

A mere minute and 47 seconds into the start of the game, Ohio State got on the board first with a goal from Kelsey Nolan. But, Rutgers was quick to answer, as 1 minute later senior midfielder Nikki Profita scored on an assist from Cuneo.

After another goal from the Buckeyes around the 12-minute mark, the Knights finished the half strong, scoring back-to-back goals to take a 3-2 lead into halftime.

To tie the game at 2 apiece, Profita scored her 2nd goal of the game, assisted by Butsack. Profita's 2 goals in the game made this her first career multi-goal game.

At the 27-minute mark, Rutgers took the lead off of a corner. This time it was Groothuis, who scored her team-leading 6th goal of the season.

In a second half that was the direct opposite of the scoring outburst seen in the first half, a defensive struggle ensued. With just 8 minutes remaining in the game, Ohio State tied the game, forcing overtime.

Overtime consisted of golden goal rules, so the first team to score wins. Sophomore goalkeeper Gianna Glatz saved four shots in the first overtime, tallying nine saves on the day and tying her career high. The Buckeyes put much pressure on the Knights the entire game, outshooting them 20-8.

After two scoreless overtime periods, the game headed to a penalty shootout. Each team made 4 of their first 5 tries, sending it to sudden death. Nolan scored the winning penalty shot for Ohio State, ending the 90-minute contest.

Rutgers is back in action this weekend, with two more ranked opponents. First, on Friday, the Knights will take on No. 14 Penn State (6-3) at home. They will then travel to play No. 17 Delaware (4-5) on Sunday.

"I don't feel like we played our best today. Our focus was to play our hockey for 70 minutes. I think we had some good moments, but it wasn't enough today," Civico said. "We'll recognize the things that we need to work on and prepare as hard as we can for Friday's matchup against Penn State."

No. 17 Rutgers Field Hockey Downs Michigan State for First Big Ten win of season **Namrita Singh | On the Banks**

No. 17 Rutgers Field Hockey played lights out over Michigan State Friday afternoon, defeating them 5-1 for the team's first conference win of the season. They outshot the Spartans 14-2, including 9-0 in the first half, and five different players scored goals.

Just two minutes apart about halfway through the first half, Captain Linde van Schaik and Gracey Butsack tallied a pair of goals to give the Scarlet Knights a 2-0 lead. Butsack's goal would eventually be the game-winner.

Rutgers added two more goals to start the second half, this time from Alanna Gollotto and Austyn Cuneo. Michigan State would get one goal back but would not be able to complete the comeback after Nikki Santore scored the fifth Rutgers goal.

With her goal and assist today, van Schaik has 20 goals and 54 points in her career and is tied for 11th place all-time in program history in goals and moves into 10th place all-time in points.

Sophomore Daphne Groothuis, the team's leading scorer with 18 points, had another two assists today, tying her career high from last season with eight. Butsack's goal was her first of the season and the sophomore has now tied her career-high in points with four. Cuneo's goal is also her fifth of the season, tying a career-high. Santore's goal was her first of the season and 14th of her career.

Rutgers is now 5-8-1 against Michigan State all-time and also beat them 3-2 last season on the road.

The Scarlet Knights move to 7-1 on the season and will host No. 23 Ohio State in another Big Ten matchup on Sunday at 1PM. The game will be televised nationally on Big Ten Network.

Big Weekend for Rutgers **Joe O’Gorman | Trentonian**

It’s Alumni Weekend at Rutgers and the Scarlet Knights have a pair of key Big Ten games on tap.

On Friday, Michigan State (4-5, 0-1 Big Ten) comes to Piscataway and then on Sunday, No. 23 Ohio State (4-4, 0-1 Big Ten) will be challenging the Scarlet Knights (6-1, 0-1 Big Ten).

“We are really looking forward to being home this weekend, starting Friday against Michigan State,” said Rutgers coach Meredith Civico. “The team had a disappointing result last week against Michigan and they are really looking forward to getting our first Big Ten win. We’re excited about being home and focused on a solid week of training.”

There will be a crew of alumni that can recall those training days on hand to cheer for the Scarlet Knights.

“I think it is going to be an awesome atmosphere,” said Civico. “We’ve got a lot of people coming back. A lot of people are really excited about the program and how we’ve done so far this year. We should have a really great home crowd for both games.”

It should be a great weekend and a few wins will make it even greater.

No. 17 Rutgers has big slate in schedule over next two weeks **Matt Howe | Daily Targum**

In the next two weeks, the Rutgers field hockey team will get a chance to show the country what it is or isn't made of, as the stretch of games that it will play will ultimately define its season.

The No. 17 Scarlet Knights are off to a hot 6-1 start, with their only loss coming on the road to Big Ten foe Michigan, who is currently ranked No. 8 in the country.

Rutgers is off to one of its best starts since 2008, when it started 9-1 on the year. Last year, the Knights finished 9-9 on the season, good enough to finish the season ranked No. 23 in the nation.

But this year feels different.

A class of talented sophomores have pulled a ton of weight on this team, with midfielder Daphne Groothuis leading the team in goals (5), assists (six) and points (16). She isn’t the only sophomore contributing of course, as goalkeeper Gianna Glatz boasts a 6-1 record in net having recorded five shutouts.

Other sophomores contributing include forward Cassidy Shetler, and midfielders Kerrie Burns, Gianna Mancini and Gracey Butsack, all of whom have played in each of the seven first games.

Naturally, there are upperclassmen leaders as well, including junior forwards Alanna Gollotto and Austyn Cuneo — the latter of which is second on the team in goals (4) and points (nine). Senior midfielder Linde van Schaik has also chipped in with 2 goals, two assists and six points.

Over the next two weeks, Rutgers will play the meat and potatoes of its schedule against four straight ranked opponents. Before that, the Knights will look to take care of business and win their first Big Ten game against Michigan State (4-5) at home on Friday.

After the Spartans, Rutgers will take on four straight ranked opponents — two at home and two on the road. The first ranked opponent is No. 23 Ohio State, who is 4-4 on the season thus far. If the Knights are able to sweep their weekend opponents, they will improve their record to 8-1, as well as 2-1 in the Big Ten.

After the pair of games this weekend, Rutgers still has three straight ranked opponents left. On Friday, Sept. 28, the Knights will host No. 6 Penn State at home in what will sure to be a great matchup.

The Nittany Lions are 5-2 on the season up until now, with one of their losses coming to Princeton, 2-1, in overtime. Rutgers beat the then-No. 6 Tigers, 1-0, back on Sept. 9 at home. Princeton has since moved up a spot in the national rankings, coming in at No. 5.

The next two ranked games for the Knights are on the road, as they will travel to play No. 15 Delaware and No. 3 Maryland.

The Blue Hen matchup will take place on Sunday, Sept. 30. Delaware is 4-4 right now, with a 3-2 win over the Buckeyes, as well as a 4-2 loss to the Tigers.

Perhaps the biggest matchup of the four ranked opponents comes last, as Rutgers travels to College Park to take on the Terrapins.

Last season, Maryland made a magical run all the way to the finals of the NCAA Field Hockey Championship, before losing to powerhouse Connecticut, 2-1. So far this season the Terrapins are 8-0 with wins over No. 3 Duke and the Blue Hens.

If the Knights can go 2-2 or even 3-1 in their four ranked games over the next two weeks, while also beating unranked Michigan State, that would set them up with a potential 9-3 or 10-2 record with five games left to play.

In their last five games of the season, they only play two ranked opponents in No. 14 Northwestern and No. 13 Iowa. Expect Rutgers to finish the season anywhere between 12 and 14 wins, which would be a huge step up from last year's 9-9 finish.

A strong end to the season would also give it momentum heading into the Big Ten tournament, where it was bounced out last year in the first round by the Wildcats.

These next two weeks will be extremely telling of how the season will shape up for the Knights

Unbeaten Rutgers enters Big Ten play after historic win vs. Princeton

Joe O’Gorman | Trentonian

The highlight of last week in college field hockey was No. 17 Rutgers' 1-0 upset of No. 5 Princeton.

The Tigers (3-2) won the statistical battle and kept the pressure on all game. A second-half goal by the Scarlet Knights' Austyn Cuneo was the difference.

The win lifted the Scarlet Knights to 5-0 heading to Big Ten play.

“This was a total team effort,” said Rutgers coach Meredith Civico, in the Rutgers press release. “It was a great win. I thought we really played as a team. We moved the ball really well and we capitalized on our opportunity. Austyn Cuneo’s finish on the goal was outstanding. Our backfield and our defensive corner unit played so tough and so strong. The whole team fought really hard all game long.”

Gianna Glatz, the Rutgers goalie, was the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week after shutouts of Cornell and Princeton. She tied a season high with seven saves against the Tigers.

Melina Redlingshoefer was named the Big Ten Freshman of the Week after anchoring the defense in front of Glatz for the Scarlet Knights.

Rutgers heads to No. 10 Michigan on Friday and then faces Longwood on Sunday in Ann Arbor.

“We’ve got the right people in this program,” Civico said in a Rutgers press release. “All the pieces seem to be falling into place. What we’re most excited about with this team is their potential. They are a humble group, but they are a hungry group and they are not satisfied with this so far.”

The win over Princeton was the first since 1995 and the Scarlet Knights’ first ever over a top-10 team.

No. 17 Rutgers Field Hockey Splits Weekend With Loss to No. 10 Michigan, Win over Longwood Namrita Singh | On The Banks

In its first Big Ten conference matchup of the season, #17 Rutgers Field Hockey (6-1) took its first loss against #10 Michigan in Ann Arbor on Friday, falling 3-1. Sophomore Daphne Groothuis scored the Scarlet Knights’ lone goal in the contest. Michigan outshot Rutgers 16-5.

The Wolverines broke the scoreless tie with 10 minutes left in the first half and they went into halftime with the lead. Michigan would score on a penalty corner in the second half to go up 2-0 but Rutgers quickly responded and cut the deficit in half. However, Michigan would score on another penalty corner and Rutgers fell 3-1.

Groothuis’s goal was her fourth of the season, tying Austyn Cuneo for the team lead in goals. Groothuis also leads the team in points with 14. Kerrie Burns had a defensive save for the second straight game and Nikki Profita had her first career defensive save.

Rutgers is now 2-1 against ranked teams this season, defeating both #18 St. Joe’s and #6 Princeton. Rutgers remains winless against Michigan (8-0).

The Scarlet Knights would rebound quickly on Sunday with a 5-0 shutout over Longwood. Groothuis, Tayla Parkes, Linde van Schaik, Kassidy Shetler, and Gianna Mancini all tallied goals. Rutgers outshot Longwood 22-4 and led in penalty corners 10-3.

Rutgers set the tone in the first half, scoring three goals within four minutes. They did not allow a shot until the last few seconds of the first half. They continued to put pressure and control the game, adding two more goals in the second half.

Groothuis now leads the team in both goals (5) and points (16). Shetler has three goals on the season, setting both a new career high in goals and points.

Through seven games, Rutgers is outscoring opposing teams 22-5. Goalkeepers Gianna Glatz and Amanda Lamb combined for the team's fifth shutout of the season.

The team will continue conference play this weekend when they host Michigan State on Friday at 3PM and #23 Ohio State on Sunday at 1PM. This weekend is also Alumni Weekend and the matchup against the Buckeyes will be nationally televised via Big Ten Network.

No. 17 Rutgers travels up to No. 10 Michigan

Matthew Howe | Daily Targum

The Rutgers field hockey team will look to stay undefeated this Friday as it travels to Michigan for its first road trip of the season.

The Wolverines (3-3) are ranked No. 10 in the country and all three of their losses come against ranked opponents. Michigan lost to No. 2 North Carolina 5-1, No. 14 Wake Forest 3-2 and No. 1 Connecticut 2-1.

Aside from being the No. 17 Scarlet Knights' (5-0) first away game of the season, it will also be their first Big Ten game of the year. Rutgers was 3-5 in Big Ten games in 2017.

The Knights have relied heavily on their defense to win games, so far. Of Rutgers' five wins, four are shutouts — which leads the nation. Its goals-against average of 0.40 also leads the nation.

Probably the biggest part of the Knights' exceptional defense so far has been the play of sophomore goalkeeper Gianna Glatz. Glatz boasts a 0.43 goals-against average and .905 save percentage, which both rank second in the nation.

The Wolverines are led by Emma Way, who has scored 7 goals, while they have two goalkeepers who have split time in the box. Dating back to 1992, Rutgers is 0-7 against Michigan, so a win in Ann Arbor would be monumental.

"We just need to stay in the moment and stay focused," said head coach Meredith Civico, according to scarletknights.com. "Michigan is a very good team. We're a very good team. Our experience winning these games so far has put us in a good position. It's going to be a tight game, we need to figure out how to just play our game and keep attacking, even when the pressure is on."

While in Ann Arbor, the Knights will also take on Longwood. The Lancers are 4-1 on the season — including a 2-1 victory over No. 20 Liberty earlier this week.

So far this season, Rutgers is led by junior midfielder Austyn Cuneo, who has 4 goals, and sophomore midfielder Daphne Groothuis who has 3 goals. Groothuis also leads the team in points with 12.

If the Knights can come out of Michigan with two victories, they will be 7-0, and off to their best start in more than 10 years. The Wolverines will be Rutgers' third ranked opponent of the season, and if they can topple them on their home field, they have a real shot at cracking the top 10 national rankings.

Field Hockey Makes Program History

Brian Fonseca | 24/7 Sports

The No. 23 Scarlet Knights sweat out a 1-0 victory over No. 6 Princeton on Sunday, marking the highest ranked victory in program history. It was the first top-10 win in program history, with the previous high being a win over No. 12 Stanford last season. The win is the Scarlet Knights' first over Princeton since 1995 and it bolsters their record to a perfect 5-0, their best start since 2008.

Rutgers suffered an offensive barrage from its visitors as the Tigers outshot the Scarlet Knights 13-2 but a solid defensive effort after the opening goal sealed the victory. Junior forward Austyn Cuneo scored the only goal of the contest while sophomore goalkeeper Gianna Glatz made seven saves, six of which in the second half with her team ahead.

"This was a total team effort. It was a great win," head coach Meredith Civico told ScarletKnights.com. "I thought we really played as a team. We moved the ball really well, we capitalized on our opportunity. Austyn Cuneo's finish on that goal was outstanding. I thought our backfield and defensive corner unit played so tough and so strong. The whole team fought really hard, all game long."

Gianna Glatz, Milena Redlingshoefer Earn Big Ten Honors for Rutgers Field Hockey Namrita Singh | On The Banks

After picking up two wins over the weekend, both 1-0 shutouts including one over No. 6 Princeton, No. 23 Rutgers Field Hockey earned two Big Ten weekly honors. Sophomore goalkeeper Gianna Glatz was named Big Ten Defensive Player of the Week and freshman outside back Milena Redlingshoefer was named Big Ten Freshman of the Week.

Glatz helped the Scarlet Knights earn their third and fourth shutouts of the regular season over Cornell and Princeton this past weekend, making three saves over Cornell and seven against Princeton, tying her season-high. Glatz has all four shutouts this season, and boasts a 0.43 goals against average and a .905 save percentage, leading the Big Ten Conference in all three categories. She is also second in the nation in both GAA and save percentage.

Redlingshoefer has found her place in Rutgers's lineup and played every minute of both games this weekend. The freshman from Munich, Germany has started all five games at back this season and bolstered the defense in front of Glatz to help the team pick up both shutouts. They did not allow Princeton to score on nine attempted penalty corners and 13 shots. Rutgers is averaging 0.4 goals allowed per game, which is tied for the nation's lead.

The Scarlet Knights will look to play well and remain undefeated when they head on their first road trip on Friday when they face No. 7 Michigan in their first Big Ten contest of the season. They will also play Longwood on Sunday.

No. 23 Rutgers Field Hockey Still Perfect, Beat No. 6 Princeton 1-0 Namrita Singh | On The Banks

Similar story, different outcome.

Last season. Rutgers Field Hockey was undefeated (4-0) until they faced then No. 12 Princeton and fell 4-1 in the first meeting between the two teams since 2006. Nikki Santore scored the only goal for Rutgers. Princeton led in both shots and corners.

But Rutgers is trusting the process this season.

On a cold and rainy day with 271 fans in attendance, Princeton again led in shots (13-2) and penalty corners (9-1) but goalkeeper Gianna Glatz and the Rutgers defense held steady to help the Scarlet Knights pick up their highest ranked win in program history and first ever win over a top-10 program. Rutgers had not beaten Princeton since 1995 (the year I was born, in case you wanted to feel old today).

Neither team broke through during the first half and they did not have their first shot attempt for nearly 27 minutes. The second half saw most of the action. Austyn Cuneo put Rutgers in the lead for good at the beginning of the second half on a penalty corner with an assist from captain Linde van Schaik, who also received a green card later in the game. The Tigers controlled possession after the goal and had many chances to score but did not.

This is the team's fourth shutout and second ranked win of the season. They improve to 5-0, which is the team's best start since 2008 when they began 6-0. It cannot be stated enough just how important this win is for this team and for this program. It was a gutsy and gritty team win.

Glatz made six saves in the second half (seven total) to earn her seventh career shutout. She boasts a 0.43 goals against average and a .905 save percentage. Cuneo now leads the team in goals with four and also scored the only goal in a win over Cornell on Friday.

The Scarlet Knights will face No. 7 Michigan in their first conference matchup and road game of the regular season on Friday. They will also play Longwood on Sunday at a neutral location.

No. 23 Rutgers Field Hockey Remains Undefeated with 1-0 win over Cornell **Namrita Singh | On The Banks**

You could say that things are going pretty smoothly for No. 23 Rutgers Field Hockey (4-0) right now. With Friday's 1-0 win over Cornell, the team remains undefeated on the season with three shutouts and a ranked win over St. Joe's. Rutgers dominated offensively, despite only having one goal to show for it, with an advantage in both shots (24-3) and corners (14-0).

But the lone goal served its purpose and helped the Scarlet Knights win the game. Redshirt junior Austyn Cuneo would break the scoreless tie with about five minutes remaining in regulation. Rutgers controlled the entire game, tallying 15 shots and nine corners in the second frame alone. Cuneo would help score on their 14th corner of the game.

Cuneo now shares the team lead in goals with three; Daphne Groothuis also has three. Cuneo also led the team in shots with nine; Groothuis had five. With her assist on Cuneo's goal, sophomore Kerrie Burns ties her career high with four points so far this season. Linde van Schaik also picked up an assist.

Rutgers goalkeeper Gianna Glatz made three saves en route to picking up her third shutout of the season and sixth of her career. Cornell goalkeeper Maddie Henry made 12 saves.

For the second consecutive year, the Scarlet Knights have started the season with four straight wins. Last season, they fell 4-1 to then No. 12 Princeton for their first loss of the season.

They will close out their five-game home stand with a Garden State matchup Sunday morning against now No. 6 Princeton. The game is scheduled to begin at 11AM at the Bauer Track & Field Complex. This is the game to be at.

Rutgers sweeps the weekend with consecutive 1-0 wins

Matthew Howe | Daily Targum

After two consecutive 1-0 victories over Ivy League teams at home, the Rutgers field hockey team is off to its best start since 2008 when it started 6-0.

On Friday, the No. 23 Scarlet Knights (5-0) hosted Cornell, and in a game that they dominated in shots (24-3) and corners (14-0), Rutgers finally pushed a goal across with just over 5 minutes remaining in the game.

The goal came from redshirt junior forward Austyn Cuneo, who was assisted by senior midfielder and captain Linde van Schaik and sophomore midfielder Kerrie Burns off of a corner.

"We had to read the defense on that play. The way they came out, we've trained against that. My first instinct was just to go right to goal," Cuneo said, according to scarletknights.com. "When it went in, there was a little bit of relief. At the same time, there was still pressure to play at high intensity for the last 5 minutes to maintain that lead."

Head coach Meredith Civico preached patience, and her halftime speech sure seemed to pan out.

"The message at halftime to the team was to just relax," she said. "As the game went on, we just weren't scoring, so we had to take a deep breath. We knew we needed to be more composed. On that corner, we just wanted Austyn to get a good clean strike on the ball. We did, and we scored, and it was excellent. I'm really happy that we were able to finish it off."

The victory gave the Knights their third shutout of the season, something Civico was also very pleased about.

"Our backfield is an absolute strength," she said. "It's been anchored by our captain Linde van Schaik, with Kerrie Burns and Daphne Groothuis up the middle. I've been really impressed by two freshmen, Abby Regn and Milena Redlingshoefer, starting at outside back, those two are not playing like freshmen. And Gianna Glatz has been outstanding in goal. We have a lot of confidence in that group."

With the shutout, sophomore goal keeper Gianna Glatz improved her goals-against average to a mere 0.55 goals against per game. Cuneo's goal was her third of the season, which for the moment put her in a tie for most goals on the team with sophomore midfielder Daphne Groothuis.

After the game on Friday, Rutgers had a day off before hosting in-state rival and No. 6 Princeton on Sunday.

Despite the Tigers holding the advantage in shots (13-2) and corners (9-1), it was the Knights' singular corner that netted them the game winning goal.

After a scoreless first half, Rutgers got its first corner of the game early on in the second half. Off of that corner, van Schaik inserted the ball in to Cuneo, who maneuvered around an opponent and scorched the ball into the back of the net. Cuneo's fourth goal of the season now puts her in the lead for goals on the team.

The win over Princeton was the Knights' first win against the Tigers since 1995, and it was also Rutgers' highest ranked program win in history.

Although Princeton hammered away 11 shots in the second half, the Knights defense was true, recording their fourth shutout in five games.

"It was such a great team performance. Everyone gave 100 percent the whole game," Burns said, according to scarletknights.com. "We really did fight to the very end. We were so strong in the back, we were first to the ball every time. I think that was the key to winning the game."

Glatz, who had a 0.55 goals-against average per game before Princeton, improved her average to an incredible 0.43 GAA with a .905 save percentage on the season.

After starting 5-0, Rutgers will look to tie its previous best start to a season, which was 6-0 in 2008, as it hits the road to Ann Arbor for its first road game of the season and second consecutive against a top-10 opponent.

No. 7 Michigan has started its season 3-3 with all three of its losses coming at the hands of a ranked opponent. The Wolverines have lost to No. 1 Connecticut, No. 2 North Carolina and No. 14 Wake Forest.

The Knights, on the other hand, are 2-0 against ranked opponents thus far, and a win on the road against a top-tier Big Ten team will surely propel Rutgers to a top-10 ranking.

"This was a great win, especially coming up against a ranked team," Glatz said. "It's awesome to win a game that's so competitive and where we played so well together. Our back line played with so much confidence, we all played as one unit. The communication was great. We play to each other's strengths and use that to our advantage."

Former Viking stars helping Rutgers to hot start

Matthew Howe | Daily Targum

When it comes to high school field hockey, one program not only in the state of New Jersey, but the entire nation comes to mind — Eastern Regional.

Over the 19-year tenure of head coach Danyle Heilig, she has compiled a stunning 463-12-6 record at Eastern, with countless state championships throughout that span. Between 1999 and 2005, the Vikings won 153 games straight, a New Jersey record that still stands today.

The team most recently had a 153 game unbeaten streak that was finally broken back in 2016. At the time of the loss, which were to out-of-state teams, the team had won 131 consecutive games against New Jersey opponents.

As the Rutgers field hockey team has started strong at 3-0 on the season, the Scarlet Knights roster has three players on it all from Eastern Regional. Junior forwards Alanna Gollotto, Nikki Santore and Austyn Cuneo played on the dominant Vikings team.

Gollotto and Cuneo are both currently tied for second in goals with 2 apiece for Rutgers so far in the early season.

"Playing on Eastern was an amazing experience that taught us to work hard and never settle," Santore said. "Playing for Eastern also prepared us all for college field hockey, which made the transition easier."

In her four seasons on the Eastern Regional team, Gollotto was fortunate enough to celebrate winning the state title all four years of high school. Her teams also won multiple Tournament of Champions, which pits the various group state title winners from New Jersey against one another.

Clearly, winning so much in high school instilled a standard and level of excellence which Gollotto was able to carry with her over to the Big Ten with the Knights.

“The standard was always high, and we worked extremely hard everyday at practice to prepare us for games,” Gollotto said. “So always playing hard and not giving anything less than 100 percent prepared us to come into Rutgers and give that same effort that we were used to giving.”

Possibly the most decorated Viking of all time, Cuneo transferred to Rutgers last season from North Carolina. While playing at Eastern Regional, she built a resume that speaks for itself.

Cuneo holds the national preps record for most goals (328), goals in a season (96 in 2013) and consecutive games with at least 1 goal (72) between 2012 and 2014. She is also a three-time high school first-team All-American, as well as being named New Jersey player of the year twice.

In her first season in Piscataway, Cuneo finished third on the team in points with 15, having scored 5 goals and adding another five assists in all 18 games. Clearly, college field hockey is drastically different from high school, where Cuneo dominated every single game.

“I think the hardest transition is the faster pace of the game and the way you have to transition into being a multi-positional player. That’s very different from high school field hockey where you have your own spot on the field that you own,” Cuneo said.

Last season, Cuneo played both offense and defense, something she wasn’t asked to do while playing in high school at Eastern.

This season, she has transitioned into a more comfortable role playing forward, which is the position she played in high school.

“You have to be willing to go into any position and know what you’re doing when you get put there without missing a beat,” Cuneo said. “The pace of the game is much faster, because the surface we play on is different than in high school, but it’s something I enjoy. I like the fast pace, physical game of college field hockey.”

Behind Gollotto and Cuneo’s strong play thus far, the Knights are 3-0 including a win over then-No.18 ranked St. Joseph’s. The win was good enough for them to pick up a top-25 ranking in the latest Penn Monto/National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) Division I Coaches Poll, coming in at No. 23.

Winning is something that all three of the former Vikings are accustomed to, and they hope to continue their success on the Banks, where they look to help Rutgers reach its first winning season since 2008.

Rutgers Field Hockey Ranked #23, Daphne Groothuis earns B1G Offensive Player of the Week honors Namrita Singh | On The Banks

Following the release of the Penn Monto/National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) Division I Coaches Poll Tuesday morning, Rutgers Field Hockey is nationally ranked for the first time this season and sits at No. 23. The Scarlet Knights (3-0) are undefeated on the season, outscoring their opponents

14-2, including a pair of shutouts against Richmond and Hofstra to start the season, and picked up their first ranked win of the season over No. 18 St. Joe's on Sunday.

Last season, the team spent nine weeks in the rankings and at one point, reached No. 18, but finished No. 21. They also had three ranked wins and three conference wins throughout the season.

Sophomore and team leader in scoring Daphne Groothuis was also named Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week this afternoon. Over the weekend, she scored two goals and five assists, and had a defensive save in games against Hofstra on Friday and No. 18 St. Joe's on Sunday. She had a career-high three assists during Friday's game. She has also had at least one goal and one assist in every game that she has played this season and is a big reason why the team is playing so well and so cohesively.

Groothuis leads the team in goals, assists, and points, and leads the Big Ten in points per game with 4.0, which is also third across the country. Her 2.0 assists per game are tied for the nation's lead, and her average of 1.0 goal per game is second in the Big Ten and ninth in the nation.

This is also the first time that Groothuis has earned this honor although she received several honors during her freshman season at Rutgers, including Big Ten Freshman of the Week twice and was ultimately named Second Team All-Big Ten.

The Scarlet Knights will close out their five-game home stand this weekend with contests against Cornell on Friday at 3PM and No. 6 Princeton on Sunday at 11AM. Both games take place at the Bauer Track & Field Complex in Piscataway.

Rutgers Field Hockey with Big Win over #18 St. Joseph's

Namrita Singh | On The Banks

Rutgers Field Hockey (3-0) handed #18 St. Joe's their first loss of the season on Sunday afternoon with a 3-2 win in Piscataway, New Jersey. They remain undefeated on the season with a pair of shutouts and their first ranked win of 2018.

Rutgers opened up the scoring about five minutes into the game when Captain Linde van Schaik slammed the ball in at the back post off of an assist from Daphne Groothuis. This is van Schaik's first goal of the season and 18th of her career. The team's 1-0 lead would hold until halftime.

St. Joe's scored about 14 minutes into the second half off of a corner but the tie stood for just 66 seconds when Rutgers responded on a penalty stroke from Groothuis to put them back on top.

When asked about the goal, Groothuis said, "Taking a stroke is really stressful... standing alone, and feeling that everyone is watching you but I always take a second for myself. As soon as the whistle blows, I just take a second and decide which corner I go and then I just give the max effort and I was so happy I scored."

But Rutgers would not hold the lead and St. Joe's would tie the game back up about four minutes later with 15 minutes remaining. 10 minutes later, however, senior vice captain Nikki Profita picked a great moment for her first career goal, which would ultimately be the game winning tally.

Profita said, "So we started up in the game and they came back and scored on us. We scored again, they responded again. So that kinda put us in a bit of a pickle but we kept going and kept going and knew we

were on top and could finish on top. Always just being aggressive the whole time in the circle and my teammate Daph [Groothuis] just happened to be taking a shot. I just happened to be in the right place, right time to finish and that ended up putting us on top and ultimately winning the game, which was awesome.”

Profita continues, “I think, especially with this team, it was one that we had lost last year so we knew this year we wanted to have a different result. We’re a totally different team than last year so that was the driving force behind that. We knew the whole time that we wanted to win, that we were behind the ball so it was just kind of believing in the process, taking it minute by minute, half by half, and believing in ourselves and that’s kind of what it took to get the win.”

The game was a back-and-forth affair but Groothuis loved it: “It’s actually exciting. These are my favorite games because it’s good to look at and being up and then down is always hard mentally but... you gotta do it as a team. You gotta stay composed and then just shift the ball around, find our momentum, and then we can go so that’s how we got up to 3-2, I think, in the end.”

And they were able to carry the momentum and pick up their first ranked win of the season. Groothuis, especially, always seems to come through in clutch situations. She says, “I actually do [thrive on being under pressure]. Big games are actually where I feel like I play better... I know we gotta stay focused. I know that there a lot of people are watching. I just gotta play good, you know what I mean? But playing as a team today, I felt so good. The team was amazing, we did everything as a team. I feel like every player gave the max effort. It was just awesome.”

Groothuis has put the team on her back and leads with three goals and six assists for 12 points. She has had at least one goal and one assist in every game so far this season.

Rutgers is 3-0 for the second straight season. Gracey Butsack and Tayla Parkes also had shots. Goalkeeper Gianna Glatz made seven saves.

How can they keep this going for the remainder of the home stand and the season? Groothuis says, “Keep showing up to practice. Give 100% every single day. Make sure that we’re sleeping, we’re resting, we’re recovering, eating well. Just doing everything as a team and then we’ll get there.”

Profita adds that they just have to keep going and trust the process: “We’ve been saying that this season is just trust the process. It’s a process so each practice, each game, each day... we kinda just gotta take it day by day. Obviously this is a huge win and we’re really excited about it but we have to put that in the back pocket now and moving on to next weekend so just taking it weekend by weekend until we get to Big Tens and then hopefully whatever happens at the end of the season.”

Hopefully whatever happens at the end of the season is a run at the Big Ten Championships.

Rutgers finishes their five-game home stand this weekend when they host a Friday afternoon tilt against Cornell at 3PM and Sunday morning against #10 Princeton at 11AM.

Rutgers Starts off season 3-0, gain No. 23 ranking

Matthew Howe | Daily Targum

In its first game of the season, the Rutgers field hockey team took care of business against Richmond, winning the season opener 3-0. Sophomore midfielder Daphne Groothuis scored a goal and chipped in with an assist as well.

After their decisive first victory, the Scarlet Knights (3-0) took on Hofstra in their second game and proceeded to crush them 8-0. Junior forwards Alanna Gollotto and Austyn Cuneo each had 2 goals in the game, while Groothuis also had 1 goal and three assists in the blowout.

Starting the season 2-0, Rutgers went in to last Sunday's game against No. 18 St. Joseph's with plenty of momentum. The unranked Knights looked to avenge last seasons 3-1 loss.

And that momentum paid off, as the result was a hard fought 3-2 victory in front of a home crowd on a sweltering day in Piscataway.

"This was a really good win," said head coach Meredith Civico. "We knew that St. Joe's was going to be the hardest test that we had faced so far. They are a really good team with some really good players. We knew this would require a big mental and physical effort. I thought the team played really well as a team today."

Rutgers got on the scoreboard first, with 1 goal from senior midfielder Linde van Schaik off of a corner. It was van Schaik's 18th career goal and first of the season. The goal was assisted by Groothuis.

The Knights took the slim 1-0 lead in to halftime, before the Hawks tied it up at 1 goal apiece off of a corner that came 14 minutes into the second half.

Now tied at 1-1, Rutgers was determined to retake the lead. Groothuis added to her assist earlier in the game by scoring the go-ahead goal a mere 66 seconds after St. Joseph's had tied it. She ended the game with three shots on goal, two assists and 1 goal.

With the Knights holding a 2-1 lead, the 35-minute half ticked down to just 15 minutes remaining. That's when the Hawks re-tied the score, with a goal from Emily Henry.

As the scoreboard showed just 10 minutes remaining, senior midfielder and vice-captain Nikki Profita took a rebound from a saved shot and smashed it into the back of the box.

The goal would be the last of the game, giving Rutgers the 3-2 upset victory over St. Joseph's. It was also Profita's first career goal, one she will certainly not forget soon.

"This was a huge win for us today. This team this year is so different and winning this game really proves that. Since last November, we knew that we wanted to make a bigger impact," Profita said, according to the scarletknights website. "This is one of the games that we happened to lose last year. We knew this year this was one we really wanted to win. And I think the way we won it was such a big step forward and something we took a lot of pride in."

After the win, the Knights received very encouraging news as the week began, as Rutgers was named the No. 23 ranked team in the country by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA).

The Knights will look to continue their hot streak, as they have two more home games in the coming week. Rutgers will take on a pair of Ivy League opponents, first against Cornell on Friday and then against in-state rival and ranked opponent, No. 10 Princeton on Sunday.

The Knights haven't started a season 5-0 since the 2008 season, where they started 6-0 en route to a 14-6 overall record.

"Our team was right back at it after the goals they conceded, and that's the mentality it takes to win," Civico said.

Rutgers Field Hockey Scores Eight in Rout of Hofstra

Namrita Singh | On The Banks

Rutgers Field Hockey looked pretty perfect in an 8-0 over Hofstra Friday afternoon. They outshot Hofstra 36-0 and lead 12-0 in penalty corners. Six different players tallied goals in the win. This was the first time since 2003 that these two teams have played each other and Rutgers leads 15-2 all-time in the series.

Rutgers took the lead 12 minutes into the game when freshman Tayla Parkes scored her first collegiate goal off of a rebound. Sophomore Gracey Butsack's assist on the goal is the first of her career.

Junior Alanna Gollotto followed suit with her first career goal not too long after to give Rutgers a two-goal lead, followed by sophomore Daphne Groothuis converting on a penalty stroke late in the first half to send Rutgers into halftime with a 3-0 lead.

The team added five more goals during the second half. Gollotto added another goal for her first career multi-goal game and Austyn Cuneo had a two-goal game as well. Groothuis would also tally three assists in addition to her goal in the first half; her assists are a new single-game high.

Noelle Bessette and Kassidy Shetler scored the remaining goals in the second half; Bessette's tally was her first collegiate goal. Cuneo's eight shots led the team; Shetler had seven and Groothuis had six. Cuneo and Kerrie Burns also had assists.

Goalkeepers Gianna Glatz and Amanda Lamb combined for the shutout; this is Glatz's second shutout of the season and fifth of her career. Glatz played nearly 44 minutes. Hofstra's goalkeeper Betty Bosma made 18 saves, nine in each half.

Field hockey will look to keep the momentum going as they host No. 18 St. Joe's in the third game of their five-game home stand; the game is currently scheduled for 1PM tomorrow (Sunday, September 2) at the Bauer Track & Field Complex. St. Joe's is 3-0 to start the season and won 1-0 over Delaware on Friday.

Rutgers Field Hockey Posts 3-0 Shutout Over Richmond in Season Opener

Namrita Singh | On The Banks

Rutgers field hockey (1-0) opened their 2018 season with a 3-0 win over the University of Richmond (0-2) Sunday afternoon. This was their first shutout victory in a season opener since 2004 when Bobbi Jo Adams scored the only goal in a win over Georgetown almost exactly 14 years ago.

The first half was scoreless with the Scarlet Knights outshooting the Spiders 11-1. They found their groove as the game went on and despite not scoring, they did just about everything else right.

Rutgers failed to score on any of their three corners in the first half. They did not allow a shot until about the 28-minute mark and sophomore Gianna Glatz made a tremendous save and then another later on in the game en route to her fourth career shutout.

About 10 minutes into the second half, sophomore Daphne Groothuis, the team's leading scorer last season with 22 points, scored on a penalty stroke to give Rutgers the lead. That goal would ultimately end up being the game winner. Groothuis also added an assist later in the game on sophomore Kerrie Burns's goal off a corner to double the Scarlet Knights' lead.

Sophomore Kassidy Shetler cushioned the lead with her third career goal with 11 1/2 minutes remaining in the game.

Rutgers finished the game with 25 shots and 10 penalty corners, and held Richmond to just three shots and one corner. Richmond's goalkeeper Emily Braunewell made 15 saves, including several great saves on corners. Forward Austyn Cuneo led the team in shots with seven while Groothuis had six, and Burns and Shetler each had three.

The Scarlet Knights will continue their five-game home stand to open the season on Friday, August 31 when they host Hofstra at the Bauer Track & Field Complex at 1PM.

Rutgers Field Hockey Season Preview

Namrita Singh | On The Banks

After picking up nine wins during the 2017-2018 season, Rutgers Field Hockey is set to start strong, and build on their momentum and both last season's success and heartbreak. The team has gone 9-9 overall the past two seasons, earning one more conference win last year, and will continue to move forward. Most of the team remains intact with the graduation of just two former team captains in Haley Meade and Simrin Dhillon.

Seniors Linde van Schaik and Nikki Profita were named captain and vice captain, respectively. This is the second straight season that van Schaik will serve as captain; she was the team's second-leading scorer last season with 19 points (seven goals, five assists) and she played in every single game. She was also named to both the Second Team All-Big Ten and First Team All Mid-Atlantic Region, and sits near the Top Ten all-time at Rutgers in goals (17), assists (11), and points (45).

Profita, a New Jersey native, also played in every game last season, picking up two goals and three assists. Their leadership will be a major asset going forward.

Earlier last week, van Schaik was named a Preseason Big Ten Player to Watch in addition to goalkeeper Gianna Glatz and midfielder Daphne Groothuis. Glatz had an outstanding freshman season, posting a 9-9 record, a 2.23 goals against average, a .664 save percentage, and three shutouts; she will be a major difference-maker for the team this season.

Glatz was also selected to the USA Field Hockey U-21 Junior National Training Camp in June after participating in the Young Women's National Championship alongside fellow NJ natives Austyn Cuneo, Alanna Gollotto, and Kassidy Shetler. All four players are returning this season.

Groothuis, also a sophomore, was the team's leading scorer last season, tallying seven goals and eight assists for 22 points, and also led the team in shots (48), shots on goal (29), and game-winning goals

(four), including the game-winner against #12 Stanford in a 2-1 overtime win. She earned Second Ten All-Big Ten and Second Team Mid-Atlantic Region recognitions.

In addition to the returning players, the team will feature seven new faces. Midfielders Noelle Bessette, Devon Colquhoun, and Olivia Drea, and defender Abby Regn all hail from the Garden State. All four players have a host of accolades and have had exceptional field hockey careers prior to Rutgers. They will be players to watch this upcoming season.

Rutgers will also feature three more new midfielders. Clayre Smith transferred from Penn State this past spring during her freshman season and played in eight games for them. Tayla Hemera-Parkes is a member of the New Zealand national team junior program and won a national championship in 2016. Milena Redlingshoefer has represented Germany at both the U16 and U18 levels, and has been a national champion multiple times.

With a good combination of new faces and veterans, the diversity and versatility is there for the team to play around and figure out what works best. They have a healthy balance of experience, speed, and talent to take the next step.

Last season, the team picked up nine wins and peaked at #18 in the national rankings. It also had its most ever Big Ten Wins (three) and ranked wins (three). They won four straight games at home to start the season, including a 5-1 win over #23 Old Dominion, and used that momentum going forward. They did pick up B1G wins against Indiana, #19 Iowa, and Michigan State. They fell 6-0 to #12 Maryland to close the regular season and lost 4-3 to #10 Northwestern in devastating fashion in the first round of the Big Ten Tournament.

This season, Rutgers Field Hockey has a scheduled 17-game slate and they begin the season with five straight home games. Overall, they play 11 at home and six on the road, and must take advantage of those home contests. They play a total of eight conference games, split home and away, including a three-game home slate against Michigan State, Ohio State, and Penn State at the end of September. The Ohio State contest will be broadcast via Big Ten Network.

If they can get off to a strong start against non-conference teams like they have in the past, pick up a few gutsy conference wins, avoid any major injuries, and get contributions from players across the board, they are poised to take the next step (which should be a Big Ten Tournament run).

Rutgers Field Hockey opens the season this Sunday, August 26 against Richmond in their home opener. The game is scheduled for 1PM at the Bauer Track and Field Complex in Piscataway. The first 50 fans in attendance will receive the official field hockey season t-shirt.