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Hats off

By Jeff Stell

Ames High senior forward Joanna Eggert is being counted on to handle much of the Little Cyclones' scoring workload this year. She showed Tuesday it shouldn't be a problem.

Eggert scored all of the 10th-ranked Little Cyclones' goals in a 3-0 season-opening triumph over Newton, ranked No. 12 in Class 1A, at Ames High Stadium.

"It feels good to start the season out this way with a win," Eggert said. "All of us have stuff to work on, but we all stepped up to the plate tonight and went out really hard. We were all really stoked before the game to finally play."

Eggert's first goal came just six minutes into the game when she gathered the ball in front of the Newton net and slid a shot past the keeper.

In the second half, she drilled a delivery into the left corner for her second goal, and later made it a hat trick with a sliding right to left angled shot.

"When I'm playing, I don't really think about the shot, it just kind of happens," Eggert said. "I was there, and the ball was right in front of me, and I just took a rip at it. Sometimes it goes in, and sometimes it doesn't. It's a really good feeling to put it in the goal; I can't really describe it."

Emma Rathe assisted on two of Eggert's goals, and Andrea Meztger assisted on the other.

With several new starters, Tuesday's game was the first chance for Ames coach Kenny Graham to see all of the new faces in competition.

"I told the girls before the game that we were going to make a lot of mistakes, a lot of missed traps, a lot of passes that shouldn't have been made, and that's what I saw," Graham said. "What they had control over was their hustle, and they certainly hustled. We played to our strengths and got the ball up to our forwards."

After Eggert's first goal, the Little Cyclones' completely new midfield had trouble maintaining possession but played better in the second half. New keeper Angela Linahon didn't face much trouble but Graham thought the junior handled herself between the posts for her first time out at the varsity level.

"(Linahon) was off the line to back the long balls over our fullbacks and that's what we need," Graham said. "There was a couple that if she had stayed on the line, they could've been trouble, but she got off the line early. She didn't get any direct shots at her but we'll take that."

The Little Cyclones play at Urbandale Friday, April 11.

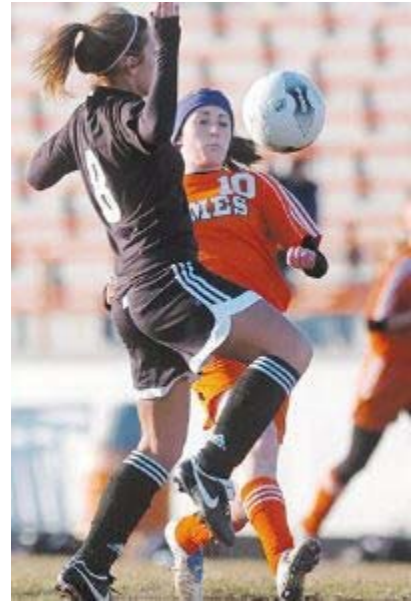


Photo by Nirmalendu Majumdar/The Tribune

Ames High's Joanna Eggert battles Newton's Hailey Riggs for the ball during the Little Cyclones' 3-0 victory Tuesday night. Eggert scored all three of Ames' goals.