

Pennington girls soccer's dynamic senior duo of Hailey Adamsky and Morgan Kotch are our Prep and Area Co-Players of the Year



Pennington's Hailey Adamsky, left, celebrates with teammate Morgan Kotch, right, after Kotch scored against Allentown during the Mercer County Tournament girls soccer final at Ackerson Field in Hopewell Twp. Adamsky and Kotch are our Prep and Area Co-Players of the Year. (Kyle Franko/ Trentonian Photo)



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When Hailey Adamsky and Morgan Kotch first stepped on the campus at the Pennington School they were the wide-eyed freshmen you would expect them to be.

By the time they played their last game for the storied girls soccer team, they had a claim to being the best team in program history.

After leading the Red Hawks to an undefeated 21-0 season and Mercer County Tournament, Mid-Atlantic Prep League and NJISAA Prep Tournament treble, Adamsky and Kotch are our Prep and Area Co-Players of the Year.

“They are models on the field and in training,” Hall of Fame coach Dr. Bill Hawkey said. “They are great people off the field. Couldn’t ask for two better kids to get that kind of honor. They are gamers.”

Best friends off the field, it’s fitting they win this award together as seniors.

Kotch, last year’s Prep and Area Player of the Year, followed up her record-breaking 40-goal season by scoring 37 more and establishing a new high-water mark for any player at Pennington with 108 in her career.

Adamsky, who battled injuries early in her career, remained healthy – broken nose in the prep state final notwithstanding – and delivered a phenomenal 20/20 season with 20 goals and 21 assists.

“That was definitely a big part of it,” Kotch said when asked about going through the last four years with her best friend. “Coming here in the first place, I was a little nervous, but it ended up being a great decision.”

In four years, the senior class compiled a staggering 57-3-3 record and won three MCT championships, two prep titles and the MAPL crown for the first time this fall. When Pennington completed its perfect 21-0 campaign with a victory over Rutgers Prep in the state final, it marked the first undefeated season without a tie (not including the 4-0 Covid year) since the 2008 team won a mythical national championship.

It begs the question whether this was the best Pennington team ever.

“I think this is one of the best for sure,” Adamsky said. “We’re very deep. Like you put on our subs and it’s just as good of a team. Every single person on that bench knows how to play soccer. It’s really impressive.”

Both agreed the team’s chemistry was apparent early in preseason and it rode that wave throughout the grueling high school soccer schedule.

“As seniors, our goal is to make sure everyone felt like a family,” Adamsky said. “We are spending every day with each other, but it was better than I could have asked for.”

Interestingly, Adamsky and Kotch are likely to line up on opposite sides of the ball in the near future. Adamsky is headed to the University of Pennsylvania to play for another Hall of Famer in Krissy Turner and Kotch is committed to Villanova University.

As expected, Pennington dominated the All-Prep Best XI. The Red Hawks got nine of the 11 spots with Adamsky and Kotch being joined by senior midfielder Sophia Murphy (6 goals, 10 assists, Stevens commit) and Kendall Malmors (2 goals, 9 assists, Fordham commit), junior midfielders Maya Raghanundanan (12 goals, 4 assists, Michigan commit) and Meg Balerna (5 goals, 9 assists), sophomore midfielder Sara Chnelich (8 goals, 6 assists) and senior defenders Lina Ballmann and Olivia Davis.

Peddie junior defender Reshem Trainor and Lawrenceville senior goalkeeper Cameron Gabrielson (Georgetown commit) were the other Best XI prep picks.

“We worked all season for this,” Adamsky said. “We played some really good competition this year. This just really topped it all off.”

“I think it was the best season,” Kotch said. “It’s my favorite season so far at Pennington just because the team really clicked and that helped us have an undefeated season.”

All Prep Girls Soccer

First Team

Forward: Hailey Adamsky, Sr., Pennington

Forward: Morgan Kotch, Sr., Pennington

Midfield: Meg Balerna, Jr., Pennington

Midfield: Sara Chernelich, So., Pennington

Midfield: Kendall Malmros, Sr., Pennington

Midfield: Sophia Murphy, Sr., Pennington

Midfield: Maya Raghanundanan, Jr., Pennington

Defense: Lina Ballmann, Sr., Pennington

Defense: Olivia Davis, Sr., Pennington

Defense: Reshem Trainor, Jr., Peddie

Goalkeeper: Cameron Gabrielson, Sr., Lawrenceville

Prep Players of the Year

Hailey Adamsky and Morgan Kotch, Pennington

Prep Coaches of the Year

Dr. Bill Hawkey and Pat Murphy

Honorable Mention

Hun: Allie Devlin (Jr.), Zoey Palmer (Sr.), Olivia Spektor (Sr.); Lawrenceville: Maddie Brogan (Sr.), Kingsley Hughes (Sr.); Peddie: Tessa Hughes (So.), Reese Kowal (Fr.), Aubrey Shaulis (So.); Pennington: Ava Brochon (So.), Katie Dwyer (So.), Brianna Turner (So.)

All Area Girls Soccer

First Team

Forward: Hailey Adamsky, Sr., Pennington

Forward: Bella Conti, Sr., Allentown

Forward: Morgan Kotch, Sr., Pennington

Midfield: Lindsay Hines, Sr., Allentown

Midfield: Magdalena Madjor, Sr., Notre Dame

Midfield: Sophia Murphy, Sr., Pennington

Midfield: Adriana Salzano, Sr., Princeton Day

Defense: Lina Ballmann, Sr., Pennington

Defense: Alyssa Hendricksen, Sr., Steinert

Defense: Tochi Owunna, Sr., Princeton Day

Goalkeeper: Cameron Gabrielson, Sr., Lawrenceville

Area Players of the Year

Hailey Adamsky and Morgan Kotch, Pennington

Area Coach of the Year

Chris Pettit, Princeton Day

Second Team

Forward: Brianna Turner, So., Pennington

Forward: Brooklynn Samonski, Sr., Nottingham

Midfield: Meg Balerna, Jr., Pennington

Midfield: Samantha Allen, Sr., Allentown

Midfield: Sara Chernelich, So., Pennington

Midfield: Kendall Malmros, Sr., Pennington

Midfield: Maya Raghanundanan, Jr., Pennington

Defense: Olivia Davis, Sr., Pennington

Defense: Ella McLaren, So., Princeton Day

Defense: Reshem Trainor, Jr., Peddie

Goalkeeper: Emily Hardiman, Sr., Steinert