



United Soccer Leagues - W-League

London, ON - May 27, 2009

## Gryphons and Lynx battle to a pair of 1 - 1 draws to start the season

The Gryphons began their 2009 season with a pair of games against the Toronto Lynx. On Saturday May 23rd, the two teams battled to an exciting 1 - 1 draw in Toronto. That game showcased the elite level talent that both teams **possess**.

The Gryphons are currently entering their 5th W-League season with a completely revamped roster which only includes four returning players from their 2008 team. The new look Gryphons, with a strong support cast from highly touted Gryphons Youth Academy players, proved to be quite a match for the heavily favoured Lynx. A strong first half performance by the home team had the Lynx cruising into half with a 1 - 0 score line. The Gryphons would fight back after the half time whistle with an excellent start equalizing through a Devon Beach goal. The Lynx would reorganize and pressure the Gryphons in an exciting final 30 minutes where Gryphons goalkeeper Jeny Wolbert (Kitchener, ON) would produce several big saves to preserve the tie.

The rematch was played out today in London on an overcast, soggy North London Stadium field. The Great Lake rivals would once again battle evenly for 90 minutes. The Lynx had a dream start to the game when speedy striker #3 Bryanna McCarthy got in behind the Gryphons defense to fire home a low left corner shot to open the scoring in the first minute of play. The Gryphons would gain their composure, however the Lynx would dictate the majority of the play utilizing their overall team speed, quick off the ball movements and accurate passing. The Gryphons struggled to find a rhythm when gaining possession but continued to work hard on the defensive side of the ball to hold the game within a single goal.

The half time break seemed to energize the Gryphons and the second half saw a stronger overall team effort to produce more offense and goal scoring chances. It was #9 Devon Beach who would answer the call for the Gryphons. Devon would collect the ball at top of the Lynx 18 yard box and cut across the face of the Lynx defense, outwitting two Lynx defenders before smashing a spectacular strike. The goal seemed to awaken the Lynx and they soon regained their first half form controlling the majority of ball possession and pressuring the Gryphons goal with wave upon wave of offensive attacks. The Gryphons back line of Grace Howell-Harries (Lucas S.S., London); Krystal Shaw (Laurier S.S., London); Martina Pettenuzzo (Univ. of Buffalo, Chicago) and Kathy Drury (Univ. of South Florida, Orlando) and Goalkeeper Jeny Wolbert (Akron Univ., Kitchener) towed the line and achieved yet another 1 - 1 draw with the Lynx.

The Gryphons don't have much time to regroup as they prepared for another huge test with perennial W-League powerhouse Ottawa Fury visiting North London Stadium on Saturday May 30th with a 3:00 pm kick-off time. Tickets are available at the gates (Adults \$5, Children \$3).

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