

# Same Winning story for Walpole

By MIKE DEL ROSSO

## SOUTH FIELD HOCKEY

### Beats Wellesley to take another Div. 1 title

TAUNTON — After a scoreless first half, top-seeded Walpole maintained its pressure and were not to be denied.

Freshman Brooke Matherson broke the ice 11 minutes into the second half, igniting a 3-0 victory over Bay State Conference Heritage Division rival Wellesley to win another Division 1 South sectional field hockey title at Taunton High yesterday.

“Wellesley held strong the first half. They prevented us from putting it in... Once we got our first goal, it was all mo-

mentum for us,” Walpole coach Marianne Murphy said.

Up to this point, Walpole’s game plan was to create scoring opportunities from corners, earning a 9-0 advantage of the No. 10 seeded Raiders. But a breakthrough by senior Caroline Malone opened the door for Matherson (two goals) the step up to score on the fly.

“Brooke comes off the bench and gives me a spark. She’ll be a great player by the time she’s a senior,” Murphy said after her club moved to 22-0-0. Wellesley

fell to 12-3-4, with all three losses to the Porkers.

Matherson scored her second goal off a penalty stroke, firing off the crossbar over Raiders goalie Lizzie Welch (eight saves). The third tally came from Hannah Feeley, who had orchestrated much of the pressure on the Wellesley goal throughout the game, off the Porkers’ 15th corner.

“We just wanted to keep drawing corners,” Murphy said. “We were down there — we weren’t getting them in, but we were

close. I said, ‘They are going to start falling. Just be patient and composed. It will come.’”

In the Div. 2 South final, Medway goalie Kasey Citron registered 16 saves, but still could not keep her Mustangs from falling to No. 2 Canton, 2-0.

“We have a lot of talent,” Canton coach Fior Griggin said to explain how her offense broke down Citron’s brick wall.

With 10 minutes left in the first half, Michelle McNeil finessed the ball through three defenders and into the net — capping off 20 min-

utes of fluid movement from the Bulldogs (20-0-1).

“I coach a passing game,” Griggin said. “Skilled as they are, it’s not an individual sport. If they give the pass, the teammate’s going to be there.”

“This year has jelled really well. Wherever the ball goes, they’re reading each other when to go, when to hold, when to support. Our seniors, speaking of experience, have been on varsity for the last four years. They’ve been here before.”

Senior captain Ali Guenther scored Canton’s insurance tally in the second half, after the Bulldogs drew four consecutive corners off of Medway (18-4-6).