

# Storm Girls Greet Hockey Season With Numbers & Experience

By John Sandstrom

“My heart rate is a lot different than it was at the start of the season last year.” That is the sentiment of Storm head coach Zac Vieau as he prepares for the 2021-22 season. “The last few years we had seventh and eighth graders who we needed to use in key roles. It wasn't fair to them to put them in that position. This year we start the season with almost the same team we had last year. The season has been great so far. The kids are familiar with our system, so it is a lot easier.”

Last year, the Storm ended the season with fourteen healthy girls. This year, the Storm starts the season with twenty-nine players. In addition, they have only three seniors so they remain a young team. “For the first time since I have been here, we will have a totally separate varsity and junior varsity team which is better for everyone,” continued Vieau.

Senior goalie Megan Larson and sophomore Harper Powell are once again expected to share time in the nets.

A highlight for the season is the opportunity to play in the Robbinsdale Cooper tournament, December 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>. It is a AA tournament with powerful teams including Academy of Holy Angels, Robbinsdale Cooper, and Farmington. There is both a varsity and junior varsity bracket.

Junior Libby Althaus thinks that it will be a great season. “It is great that we have enough for a JV team. It is fun to get to know the players new to our team. Even better, it is great to play without restrictions. Not wearing a face mask is surely a relief! Our practices have been very upbeat.” When asked what she enjoys most about practices, Libby says, “My

typical partner on defense (Liv Hoff) always has something funny to say and is usually picking on me. She always makes me laugh”.

Friday evening (November 19), the Storm hosts the Litchfield-Dassel-Cokato Dragons at Rukavina Arena in Silver Bay. Game time is 7:00 PM.

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