MCC’s Sammy Hecht and Kendall Jones Named Women’s Soccer All-Americans

Muskegon Community College forward Sammy Hecht and center midfielder Kendall Jones were named to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) 2021 Div. II Women’s Soccer All-America Team.

Hecht, a Zeeland West High School graduate, becomes the first-ever MCC women’s soccer player selected as a first team All-American. Jones, a Reeths-Puffer High School graduate, was named an honorable mention.

MCC, which captured both the NJCAA Region 12 and the Great Lakes District titles, tied for third in the nation at the NJCAA Div. II Championships in Wichita, Kansas in November. The Jayhawks finished the season with a 16-4-1 overall record.

Hecht led the nation with her nine game-winning goals. She finished 7th nationally with both her 22 goals and 57 points. She ranked 11th with 13 assists.

“Sammy is a strong target forward for the Jayhawks whose resiliency, focus and determination for scoring goals guided the Jayhawks to two wins in the NJCAA National Tournament,” said MCC Head Coach Jeff Lohman. “She scored the tying goal against Northeast College with just over four minutes remaining in regulation against #2 Jones College, a game the Jayhawks would go on to win, earning them an appearance in the tournament semifinal.”

Meanwhile, Jones had 23 assists for the Jayhawks this year to rank second in the nation. Coupled with her 13 goals, her 49 total points was 12th best in the country.

“Kendall is a dominant center midfielder for the Jayhawks whose fitness, determination and leadership guided the Jayhawks to two wins and an appearance in the national tournament semifinal,” said Lohman.

Women’s Soccer at NJCAA Championship Semifinal vs. #1 Seed Heartland CC-November 19, 2021 @ 12:00 pm

The Muskegon Community College women’s soccer quest to play in the NJCAA national championship match fell one game short on Friday afternoon, when #1 seed and unbeaten Heartland CC of Illinois edged the Jayhawks 1-0 in the semifinals held in Wichita, Kansas.

The #7 seed Jayhawks, who had upset #2 seed Jones CC on Wednesday, finish the 2021-22 season with a 16-4-1 record and tied for third in the nation. They captured both their third straight NJCAA Region 12 title and the Great Lakes District championship in their march to the national tournament.

MCC finished second in the nation with 100 goals scored and first nationally in corner kicks and assists. The Jayhawks were sixth in the nation in shutouts. Seven MCC players were in the top 50 in the nation with assists: Kendall Jones 2nd with 23, Taylor Noble 7th with 16, Ashley Popma 9th with 14, Sammy Hecht 11th with 13, Payton McKellar 22nd with 10, Nora Brown and Iris Herald 31st with 9). In addition, Sammy Hecht was 7th in the nation in goals scored. The MCC goalies were in the top 10 in goals-against average (Tara McGrath 7th with 0.77 and Ibbi Fettig 9th with 0.81).

Women’s Soccer at NJCAA National Championship vs. #2 seed Jones College-November 17, 2021 @ 2:30 pm

The 16-3-1 MCC Jayhawks, who were seeded seventh in the tournament, upset the second-seeded Jones CC Bobcats, and now face the number one seeded Heartland CC of Illinois in the quarterfinals on Friday, Nov. 19,
at noon EST. All the 2021 national tournament matches are being held at Stryker Complex in Wichita. In their only previous national appearance, the Jayhawks tied for fifth in 2020.

Against Jones, MCC’s Iris Herald (Reeths Puffer) scored the winner with 2:33 left in the second overtime before the match would have been decided by penalty kicks. Maggie Prins (Cedar Springs) was awarded the assist, after winning the ball in a scrum in the middle of the goal.

Jones CC had taken a 1-0 lead with 16:45 remaining in regulation. In dramatic fashion, MCC evened the match with 4:21 left on goal by Sammy Hecht (Zeeland West) assisted by Kendall Jones (Reeths Puffer).

Tara McGrath (Orchard View) was outstanding in goal neutralizing the Jones attack with her 9 saves.

Jordan Noble (Boyne City) and Kendall Jones played outstanding in the midfield today, noted Lohman, who also singled out the MCC back defensive line of Alexa Musk (Norton Shores), Madi Papenhagen (Waterford), Maggie Prins, Sarah Zielinski (Fruitport), and Maggie Holmes (Nunica).

“With constant pressure on them almost the entire match they stayed composed and continued to work even when we went down a goal,” added Head Coach Jeff Lohman.

“The girls continue to show their grit, resiliency, and complete love and trust in each other. We knew Jones was good and was going to dominate possession, but we also knew that if we could keep our defensive shape and composure that the longer that we could keep them off the score board the more frustrated they would get based on what we saw with them on Monday. It’s a strong team win and a major step forward for this program.”

**Women’s Soccer at NJCAA National Championship vs. #11 seed Northeast Community College-November 16, 2021 @ 2:30 pm**
The #7 seed Jayhawks opened NJCAA National Tournament play with a strong 2-0 victory over Northeast Community College in the first round of pool B.

MCC got on the board at the 43rd-minute mark when Sammy Hecht (Zeeland West) made a perfect run-in front of the goal to deflect a pass from Iris Herald (Reeths-Puffer) into the back of the net. In the second half, it was Emma Dykema (Reeths-Puffer) finding the back of the net after picking up a loose ball 16 yards out, turning and firing to the corner past the outstretched keeper. The defensive core of Alexa Musk (Mona Shores), Madi Papenhagen (Waterford Mott), Maggie Prins (Cedar Springs), Maggie Holmes (Spring Lake), and Sarah Zielinski (Fruitport) limited Northeast to just 3 shots on goal. Tara McGrath (Orchard View) and Ibbi Fettig (Cedar Springs) earned the shut out in goal.

They return to action tomorrow at 2:30 EST with a matchup with #2 seed Jones Community College.

**Women’s Soccer NJCAA Region XII Final vs. Schoolcraft College-November 7, 2021 @ 12:00 pm**
The 10th ranked Jayhawks earned their third consecutive Region XII Championship with a shootout win against Schoolcraft College. The final score ended 1-1 after 2 overtimes but MCC advances to the NJCAA National Tournament with a 3-1 advantage in the penalty kick shoot-out.

In regulation, it was Schoolcraft who scored first 16 minutes into the second half. The Jayhawks were able to answer with just over 10 minutes to go in the second half with an impressive goal by Nora Brown (Mona Shores), assisted by Sammy Hecht (Zeeland West). Neither team could find the back of the net in either of the two 10-minute overtime periods, so the game was decided by the shoot-out. In the shootout, Tara McGrath (Orchard View) had 2 saves while Sammy Hecht, Taylor Noble (Boyne City) and Kendall Jones (Reeths-Puffer) all made their penalty kicks to earn the win.
The win advances the Jayhawks to the NJCAA National Tournament in Wichita Kansas November 15 – 20th.

**Women’s Soccer NJCAA Region XII Semi-Final vs. Jackson College- November 6, 2021 @ 12:00 pm**

The 10th ranked Jayhawks defeated Jackson College in the first semi-final of the day by a score of 2-0.

MCC picked up their first goal at the 10-minute mark of the first half when Mia Strohmeyer (Grand Haven) picked up a rebound off a shot by Jordan Noble (Boyne City). Madi Papenhagen (Waterford Mott) scored 10 minutes into the second half with a perfectly placed ball on a direct kick.

MCC advances to play the winner of the other semi-final game on Sunday, 11/7 at noon. The winner of that game will advance to the NJCAA National Tournament in Wichita, KS.

**Women’s Soccer at Lake Michigan College- October 30, 2021 @ 12:00 pm**

Final-Muskegon CC 2, Lake Michigan College 1

**Women’s Soccer Home vs. Ancilla College (was 10/27)-October 22, 2021 @ 4:30 pm**

Final-Muskegon CC 13, Ancilla College 0

**Women’s Soccer at Kellogg Community College- October 17, 2021 @ 2:00 pm**

The 11th ranked Jayhawk Women’s Soccer team bounced back with an impressive 10-0 victory over host Kellogg Community College.

Leader the scoring for MCC with a pair of 3 goal efforts were Sammy Hecht (Zeeland West) and Iris Herald (Reeths-Puffer). Herald added 2 assists and Hecht chipped in with 1 assist. Also scoring multiple goals for MCC was Payton McKellar (Byron Center) with 2 goals and an assist. Rounding out the scoring were Nora Brown (Mona Shores) and Emma Dykema (Reeths-Puffer) with a goal each.

MCC is now 9-1 in conference play and 11-3 overall. The Jayhawks will next see action on Friday, 10/22 when they host Ancilla College at 4:30 pm.

**Women’s Soccer Home vs. Delta College- October 16, 2021 @ 12:00 pm**

The Muskegon Community College Women’s Soccer team dropped a 3-1 decision at home to the #1 Div III ranked Delta College Pioneers.

Nora Brown (Mona Shores) scored the lone goal for MCC with an assist from Kendall Jones (Reeths-Puffer) at the 57-minute mark.

MCC stands at 10-3. They return to action with a road trip to Kellogg Community College on Sunday, 10/17.

**Women’s Soccer at Lakeland Community College (originally scheduled for 10/9)- October 8, 2021 @ 4:00 pm**

Final-Muskegon CC 9, Lakeland CC 0

**Women’s Soccer at Schoolcraft College- October 2, 2021 @ 2:00 pm**

The 11th ranked Jayhawks earned a 2-1 win at Schoolcraft College today.

Nora Brown (Mona Shores) scored 2 minutes into the game with assists from Sammy Hecht (Zeeland West) and keeper Tara McGrath (Orchard View). Schoolcraft tied the game 2 minutes later and the score would remain tied 1-1 for 80 minutes. With 5 minutes left to play, Hecht scored the game winner off an assist by Payton McKellar (Byron Center).

MCC is now 8-2 in conference play and 9-2 overall. They will be on the road again on Saturday, 10/9 for a game at Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, OH. Game time is scheduled for 1:00 pm.
Women’s Soccer Home vs. Kellogg Community College-September 25, 2021 @ 2:00 pm
The Jayhawk Women’s Soccer team continued their winning ways with a 5-0 victory over Kellogg Community College. MCC got 3 goals from Kendall Jones (Reeths-Puffer) and 2 more goals along with 2 assists from Sammy Hecht (Zeeland West). Ashley Popma (Byron Center) also added 2 assists for the game. The Jayhawk defense limited KCC to only a single shot on goal.

The Jayhawks are now 7-2 in conference play and 8-2 overall. They return to action on Saturday, 10/2 with a trip to Schoolcraft College for a 2:00 pm contest.

Women’s Soccer Home vs. St. Clair County Community College-September 22, 2021 @ 4:30 pm
The Muskegon Community College Jayhawks defeated St. Clair County Community College at OVHS, 7-0. Scoring 3 goals each for the Jayhawks were Sammy Hecht (Zeeland West) and Kendall Jones (Reeths-Puffer). Picking up 3 assists was Taylor Noble (Boyne City). Tara McGrath (Orchard View) and Ibby Fettig (Cedar Springs) combined for the shutout as the Jayhawk defense allowed only one shot on goal for the game.

MCC is 6-2 in conference play and 7-2 overall. They host Kellogg Community College on Saturday, 9/25 with game time being 2:00 pm.

Women’s Soccer at Ancilla College-September 19, 2021 @ 12:00 pm
The MCC women’s soccer team bounced back in a big way with a 23-0 victory at Ancilla College. The Jayhawks got goals from 11 different players, led by Payton McKellar (Byron Center) and Nora Brown (Mona Shores) who each scored 5 goals and added 2 assists. Kendall Jones (Reeths-Puffer) added a goal with 6 assists, Ashley Popma (Byron Center) had a goal and 5 assists and Taylor Noble (Boyne City) added 5 assists. Ibby Fettig (Cedar Springs) and Tara McGrath (Orchard View) combined in net for the shutout.

MCC now moves to 5-2 in conference play and 6-2 overall. They return to action on Wednesday, 9/22 when they host St. Clair County Community College at 4:30 pm.

Women’s Soccer Home vs. Schoolcraft College-September 15, 2021 @ 4:30 pm
The Jayhawk women’s soccer team dropped a 3-0 decision to Schoolcraft College. MCC is now 4-2 in conference play and 5-2 overall. They return to action on Sunday, 9/19 when the travel to Ancilla College for a noon game.

Women’s Soccer Home vs. Jackson College-September 8, 2021 @ 4:30 pm
The Muskegon Community College Women’s Soccer Team won a 3-1 game against Jackson College. With the win the Jayhawks are 4-1 in conference play and 5-1 overall. They return to action on Wednesday, 9/15 with a home contest vs. Schoolcraft College. Game time is 4:30 pm.

Women’s Soccer at Delta College-September 4, 2021 @ 4:00 pm
The Women’s Soccer team dropped a 2-1 decision to the top ranked DIII team, Delta College. MCC is now 3-0 in conference play and 4-1 overall. They return to action on Wednesday, 9/8 with a home contest vs. Jackson College. Game time is 4:30 pm.

Women’s Soccer Home vs. Lake Michigan College-September 3, 2021 @ 4:30 pm
The MCC women’s soccer team scratched out a 3-2 victory over the visiting Lake Michigan College Red Hawks.
MCC is now 4-0 overall. They make the trip to take on Delta College on Saturday, 9/4 at 4:30 pm.

**Women's Soccer at Jackson College-August 28, 2021 @ 12:00 pm**
The 13th ranked Jayhawks scored a hard fought 1-0 victory over the host Jackson College Jets.

The game was scoreless until the 63rd minutes when Sammy Hecht (Zeeland West) scored the game’s only goal with an assist from Payton McKellar (Byron Center) and Kendall Jones (Reeths-Puffer). The defense limited Jackson to 1 shot on goal, led by Maggie Prins (Cedar Springs), Maggie Holmes (Spring Lake), Madi Papenhagen (Waterford Mott), Alexa Musk (Mona Shores), Marley Fogel (Spring Lake) and Audrey Lepper (Wayland Union).

MCC is now 3-0 on the season. They return to action with a home game on Friday, 9/3 at 4:30 pm vs. Lake Michigan College. Home games will be played at Orchard View High School.

**Women's Soccer at St. Clair County Community College-August 22, 2021 @ 2:00 pm**
MCC picked up their first road win of the season with a 6-1 win over host St. Clair County Community College.

Alexa Musk (Mona Shores) opened the scoring with a penalty kick. The Jayhawks also got goals from Taylor Noble (Boyne City), who scored twice, and Nora Brown (Mona Shores), Payton McKellar (Byron Center) and Audrey Lepper (Wayland Union) with a goal each. Sammy Hecht (Zeeland West) had 3 assists and Musk picked up an assist.

With the win the Jayhawks are 2-0. They return to the pitch on Saturday, 8/28 when they travel to Jackson College for a contest starting at noon.

**Women's Soccer Home vs. Lakeland Community College-August 21, 2021 @ 2:00 pm**
The 13th ranked Jayhawk Women’s Soccer team opened the season with a 7-0 shutout victory over visiting Lakeland Community College at home.

Sammy Hecht (Zeeland West) led the scoring with two goals. MCC also got single goals from Payton McKellar (Byron Center), Emma Dykema (Reeths-Puffer), Iris Herald (Reeths-Puffer), Alexa Musk (Mona Shores) and Kendall Jones (Reeths-Puffer). Jones also picked up two assists, as did Sarah Zielinski (Fruitport). Nora Brown (Mona Shores), Taylor Noble (Boyne City), McKellar and Herald all added to the scoring with an assist each. Ibbi Fettig (Cedar Springs) and Tara McGrath (Orchard View) combined for the shutout.

MCC moves to 1-0 on the early season. They travel to battle St. Clair County Community College on Sunday, 8/22 at 2:00 pm.