Despite a tough 8-13 season for the women’s field hockey team, their many strengths and awarded individual talents buoyed the young team to improve and seek victories against high-ranking contenders.

With the 12 sophomores and redshirt players from last year and five new freshmen, the team remained very young and yet managed to give major teams a run for their money. “We are a very young team this year, so we needed time to work out some of the kinks with new players on the field,” sophomore goalie Carrie Thompson said. “We lost four starters from last year, but we did not lose our stride. Everyone has meshed well together, and I think we have adjusted nicely,” Thompson said.

In the game against Rutgers, senior Lauren Giles deflected the assist from freshman Kelsey Nawalinski to put the Tribe ahead 1-0 at the end of the game. This served as a milestone for the Tribe as it was the first shut-out of the season. Another notable milestone was their home win in overtime against the University of Pennsylvania. The women clinched the hard-earned 3-2 win when sophomore Jenna Cinalli finished a pass from junior Wesley Drew. The overtime win against Pennsylvania was the first one of the season and improved the Tribe’s record.

Since last season, the team built on their field hockey fundamentals as well as their team chemistry as a whole. “Our passing this year has improved tremendously,” senior Katie Broaddus said. “We are seeing each other all over the field, and our success is absolutely a team effort. I love this team so much!” Broaddus said. Broaddus received such honors as a Second-Team All-CAA commendation and an All-League player selection.

Throughout the season, Colonial Athletic Association awards and honors were given to many of the women. Players such as junior Wesley Drew and redshirt freshman Mikala Savaides were two of the many Tribe women recognized as All-Colonial Athletic Association players. Three CAA Rookie of the Week accolades were given to Tribe women. Savaides received the honor twice after her goals against Richmond and Hofstra. Nawalinski also received the commendation for her play against Towson. Drew and sophomore Carrie Thompson were also named to the CAA All-Championship Team. Finally, Drew was named to the First-Team All-State and became the first Tribe athlete to do so since 2006.

So, in the face of obstacles such as working out the kinks of a young team, the loss of four starters, and tough matches against talented rivals, the team’s chemistry on field, improved fundamentals, and many individual CAA honors helped the women to grow together, even in overtime.

Madeleine Bradsher