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Oh, what a night

Georgetown Prep lacrosse routs Langley under lights

by Dan Greenberg | Staff Writer

This year, the Georgetown Prep boys lacrosse team is trying to be a little different.

In the first game ever played under their home stadium lights, the Little Hoyas completed a three-game sweep of Virginia programs to begin the season, routing Langley on Friday night, 12-3. Three days prior, they avenged a 2010 loss to the Collegiate School with another nine-goal victory.

"This game had a little extra fanfare because it was the first night game here, which is why you might see all these people here," Prep coach Kevin Giblin said. "And their assistant coach, Jeremy Hirsch, graduated from Prep and was a captain at Princeton. They're the Virginia public school champs two years in a row and I thought we played well, especially our defense."

Its defense started out slow against the methodical Saxons, allowing two early goals. Five minutes in, Langley's Michael Adams flicked in a snap shot from close range for the game's first score, and teammate Luke Salzer connected late in the first quarter to give his team a brief, 2-1 advantage.

Then Prep (3-0) decided to turn up the tempo, and that was that.

It scored the game's next eight goals, seven before the end of the first half. Drexel (Pa.) University commit Cory Dobyns scored the first of his three goals off a pass from fellow attackman Liam Giblin, and senior middle Billy Gribbin blew past several defenders late in the first quarter to put his team on top for good, 3-2.

The Penn State-bound Gribbin scored again off a quick wrist shot early in the second quarter, and the rout was on. Junior Kyle Shanahan notched the second of his three goals and senior Joel Blockowitz scored from nearly 25 yards out to make the score 8-2 midway through the second quarter.

"This year, it's a different story," Shanahan said.

This spring, Prep's motivation is the end result of its last one. After going undefeated in Interstate Athletic Conference play during the regular season, the Little Hoyas led by five goals early in the league's tournament championship game only to watch archrival Landon come back for a 9-8 victory.

The chief objective is always a conference title, Shanahan said.

"I remember being on our field at the end of that game," the Holy Cross [Mass.] commit said. "That was a horrible feeling. It's not going to happen again."

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