

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Little Hoyas knock off Landon boys

Boys lacrosse matchup again ends in dramatic fashion as the Prep wins, 4-3, on Friday

by Dan Greenberg | Staff Writer

Just another chapter in the Georgetown Prep-Landon legacy.

For the fourth straight year, the two boys lacrosse powerhouses played a one-goal game. This time, the host Little Hoyas came from behind to top their Bethesda neighbors, 4-3, in one of the nation's fiercest rivalries.

"It's always tight," said Prep goalie Ford Martin. "It was only seven goals in the entire game; that's crazy. The defense played huge, which we've been talking about all week. I don't think they had any shots on goal in the fourth quarter."

In fact, the only shot that would have reached goal — a top-of-the-circle blast by Landon's Joe Paoletta — was blocked by Prep long stick midfielder Taylor Morgan with under 20 seconds remaining. The ball eventually rolled to midfield, and Bears attackman Harrison Archer scooped it with four seconds left.

But his last-ditch shot was also blocked.

Though the score closely resembled Landon's 6-5 victory in last year's regular season matchup, the script did not. A year ago, the Bethesda power jumped out to an immediate three-goal lead, lost it in the blink of an eye, and scored the game-winner in the final seconds.

The Bears drew first blood again, with attackman Pat Keena scoring nine seconds into the second quarter, but the Little Hoyas quickly responded with Mike Pirone's equalizer. The game was later tied 3-3 on middle Matt Smith's goal midway through the third quarter, Prep then took its first lead on Pat Glading's easy put-away minutes later.

That was the last goal of the game.

"Our poles played great," said Prep head coach Kevin Giblin. "We have four seniors [Taylor Morgan, Greg Perraut, Robert Posniewski and Alex Blonsky], and those guys came up big. ... We've taken care of the league games."

The No. 1 team in the country, according to lacrosse website laxpower.com, Prep (13-3 overall) has now won all four of its games in the Interstate Athletic Conference. The Bears (12-3, 2-1 IAC) lost their first.

A rematch in the league's postseason tournament is far from a formality. As Giblin warns: "The IAC is so good from top to bottom. Six or seven years ago, maybe that wasn't the case. But now, you really have to pay attention to just about anybody."

But on both sidelines, one team gets special attention.

"I think we'll meet again," said Smith, who scored twice. "I hope we will. The rivalry is so much fun."