

Georgetown Prep Wins Fifth Straight; Beats SSSA 12-5

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by [Steve Hallex](#) 4/6/2011

Georgetown Prep and St. Stephen's & St. Agnes are not really arch-rivals in [lacrosse](#) but speed and execution are, and that's what took [the field](#) on Tuesday. As usual, execution (Georgetown Prep) won, 12-5.

Georgetown Prep's top star is senior midfielder Bobby Gribbin. Tuesday afternoon, Gribbin contributed three goals to his team's efforts. [The senior](#) is shifty and shoots well from a number of [positions](#). And yes, he is fast; fast enough to burst through seams in St. Stephen's defense. But one fast player does not equal team speed, and in this regard St. Stephen's had the undisputable advantage.

Led by long-poles such as Isaiah Davis-Allen, [the Saints](#) defense moved around quicker in the box all afternoon. No matter how much running the Hoyas did, they could rarely find open space in front of the goal, much to the displeasure of Coach Kevin Giblin.

"Unfortunately [we had to shoot from a distance]. We like to shoot from close in."

Unable to close on the goal until the last minutes of the game, Georgetown Prep was forced to shoot repeatedly from ten feet or more out. [However](#), they shot a lot: 49 times by the official count (other sources dispute this number). Distance shooting can be a low percentage matter, but if you're taking shots out of pure desperation, some will register on the [scoreboard](#) as well as in the stat book.

At 12 for 49, the Hoyas made just under a quarter of their shots. Per percentage, the Saints did better, netting 5 of 17, but when you hold the ball less --and shoot less -- you'll probably lose. St. Stephen's would not take a single shot in a second quarter completely dominated by Georgetown Prep.

On defense, the Hoyas played strong. The "poles" in particular, including senior Henry Williams, used exceptional stick technique to keep the Saints offense away from the goal, and occasionally [stripping](#) the ball, and intercepting a pass on one occasion. Frustrated, St. Stephens wildly passed the ball out of bounds three times in the first half, turning it over. Georgetown Prep, in contrast, passed cleanly and avoided [ground](#) balls.

Yet, the Hoyas' best defensive strategy was to keep the ball away from the St. Stephen's sticks. This, they accomplished by dominating the face-offs. Except for a penalty on a late face-off, Georgetown Prep won every face-off in the first half.

Trailing 8-1 at the half, St. Stephen's shifted strategy and got aggressive. Winning their first face-off, the attacks rushed the net, not giving the Hoyas defense time to set up. Their offense would find the most success they had all afternoon. First Davis-Allen scored, followed by attackman [Grant](#) Hughes, then Peter Milley. Watching his opponents run, Giblin barked to his players: "you have to play defense sometime, don't you?"

The Hoyas attempted a similar fast-break offense, but couldn't beat St. Stephen's at this game, and the Saints won a 3-0 quarter.

It was not nearly enough to make up for the 3-1 first and 5-0 second. Nine different players for Georgetown Prep scored at least one goal. Junior Attack Kyle Shanahan would compliment complimented Gribbin's [trio](#) with two goals of his own.

Both teams play next on Friday. Georgetown Prep will play St. Albans while St. Stephen's plays Bullis.



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