

Thursday May 12, 2011

## Revenge complete for IAC champion Prep

### After beating Bullis, Little Hoyas top Landon in overtime of boys lacrosse final

by Kent Zakour and Dan Greenberg | Staff Writers

There may not be a better boys lacrosse game all year than Saturday's Interstate Athletic Conference Championship.

Georgetown Prep twice rallied from a three goal deficit and senior midfielder Bobby Gribbin scored with 1 minute, 56 seconds remaining in overtime to lift the blue and gray to a thrilling, 7-6 victory over archrival Landon.

"They said we were supposed to lose by seven," Gribbin said. "So when we came out and heard that, that just fueled the fire."

The decisive goal was scored in highlight fashion. Following a timeout with 2:12 remaining in the extra session, Gribbin and several teammates executed the designed play to perfection. He came off a pick, got checked by multiple defenders, but was still able to blister a shot past goalie Alex Joyce before falling to the ground.

"When I was a freshman on varsity, that was the first play I learned," Gribbin said. "I just come off the pick, tried to get a little hedge so the goalie moves and shoot it. ... It just felt great when it went in."

His coach agreed.

"It's not a great coaching strategy to give it to your best player," Hoyas helmsman Kevin Giblin said with a grin. "Bobby Gribbin's something special, isn't he?"

The goal allowed the Hoyas to clinch the IAC crown outright. It was the first time the conference championship was decided exclusively by the postseason tournament victor. The regular season champion Bears were not recognized with a banner.

Entering the contest, the top-seeded Bears (19-3) were riding an 18-game winning streak and were favored over the Hoyas (18-3) by virtue of a 10-5, regular season triumph April 20.

"All year long we kept scrapping and fighting and got no respect out of a lot of rankings," Giblin said. "We play a hell of a schedule, but I'm just happy for the kids."

The contest started slowly as both teams played cautiously, but it was the Bears who struck first. On an errant clearing attempt, Tommy Minkle intercepted the ball and found Pat Keena wide open in front of the net for a goal at 5:56 of the opening quarter. Peter Laco and Hank Brown then scored to give the Bears a 3-0 lead at 9:13 of the second.

But after that, the Hoyas defense tightened.

Cory Dobyms (3 goals, 2 assists) got the Hoyas got on the board midway through the second with a highlight-reel play. He backed his defender down, spun back and found a wide open net.

Early the third, Liam Giblin scored off an assist from Dobyms to cut the deficit to one, 3-2, but the Bears

answered with tallies from Charlie Schnider and Laco.

Dobyns then scored two quick goals to pull the Hoyas within one again, 5-4, entering the final 12 minutes of regulation.

The momentum continued into the fourth as Gribbin tied it at 6:34 and Joel Blockowicz gave the Hoyas their first lead, 6-5, of the afternoon at 2:45. Laco then forced overtime by completing a hat trick with just 63 seconds remaining.

"Seniors, baby," Giblin said of the combined 6-goal performance from Gribbin, Dobyns and Blockowicz. "We saved our best for last. That's the object in this league. You've got to play your best at the end. We are the champions. There's no splitting it."

### **Revenge part one of two: Bullis**

Three days earlier, the Little Hoyas earned a trip to the first-ever, all-encompassing IAC championship game by holding off host Bullis, 8-6.

Catcalls in the bleachers said it all. At halftime, with Prep leading, 6-0, its fans began screaming in unison: "We want Landon!" The Bears hosted the IAC final after whipping Episcopal on Wednesday, 12-4, and beat the Little Hoyas by five goals in the regular season matchup.

"But you know, we thought it was closer than that; it was tied up in the third quarter," Prep attackman Cory Dobyns said. "It got a little bit away from us. I think everyone kind of expected our seniors to do it all and it's not like that anymore. ... At the end of the day, that loss to Landon, loss to Bullis means nothing."

Added goalkeeper Ford Martin: "We've been talking about redemption."

Third-seeded Prep returned to the Potomac site of an April 13, overtime loss with vengeance. Sophomore attackman Bear Altemus scored one minute into the game, igniting a dominant first half for the visitors. Dobyns scored three first half goals, Altemus two, and Liam Giblin added another. Martin stopped all four first half shots on goal, and the score was a surprisingly lopsided, 6-0, at halftime.

Midway through the third quarter, midfielder Joel Blockowitz scored off a pretty pass from Dobyns, pushing the lead to seven.

Then it almost fell apart.

"We finally put together a great first half, a great three quarters," Martin said. "Now the next step is a very good four quarters."

The second-seeded Bulldogs (13-5), hosting their first IAC semifinal, arrived late to the party. Senior Kylor Bellistri scored two third quarter goals, his second with just 12 ticks left in the third quarter, making the score, 8-2.

With their backs to the wall, the Bulldogs played an inspired fourth quarter. Four consecutive goals shook the stadium into a frenzy, with junior Nick Fisher's second goal cutting Prep's lead to two with two minutes, 49 seconds left.

But Prep held on, setting the stage for a rematch of last year's final. The Hoyas jumped out to a five-goal lead in the 2010 championship game before falling, 9-8.

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