

## Stage Set for Prep-Landon Rematch

Little Hoyas Await Return of Injured Midfield  
Brancaccio

By Jake Schaller  
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The Landon boys' lacrosse team's 6-3 victory over Georgetown Prep last Friday was the 13th of the teams' 23 meetings that was decided by three goals or less.

But few would call the rivalry's latest offering a classic. It was slow, sloppy and -- by Landon-Prep standards -- less intense and much less contentious. Even the crowd was smaller (approximately 1,500), and the normally raucous student sections were relatively subdued.

"It was probably a boring game to watch," Georgetown Prep Coach Kevin Giblin said. "It wasn't up and down, and that was the tempo we probably wanted."

Still, because a young and inexperienced Georgetown Prep team stayed with the top-ranked Bears, it set the stage for a potential rematch in the Interstate Athletic Conference championship game.

Making the potential second meeting even more intriguing is the possibility that the Little Hoyas will have midfield Andrew Brancaccio back. The junior has yet to play this year, and Prep clearly missed his scoring ability Friday. Without Brancaccio, All-Met senior Danny Glading has faced defenses geared to stop him, with defenders sliding to him aggressively. Glading still managed to score two goals and assist on Prep's other, but as arguably the area's best feeder, he would be even more effective with a scoring threat like Brancaccio on his side.

But Giblin said just getting to the IAC final and a rematch with the Bears would be difficult.

"I wish I could start talking about a rematch, but I don't know if I can," Giblin said. "We've got to play our league. If we get there, maybe it'll be a better go the next time -- if we get there."

**Kirschner Leads Saints**

One of Landon Coach Rob Bordley's former players -- 1983 graduate Rick Kirschner -- has helped turn around the program at St. Stephen's/St. Agnes. Kirschner's Saints defeated St. Albans last Friday, 7-6, for one of their biggest victories in years. It was their first victory over an Interstate Athletic Conference team other than Episcopal in Kirschner's four seasons with the program.

"I think it's the first time in 10 years that we've beaten them," Kirschner said. "Beating Albans is definitely a big stride for us."

The victory was especially sweet considering how the Saints lost to the Bulldogs in last year's Interstate Athletic Conference tournament. St. Stephen's/St. Agnes led by two goals with two minutes left but squandered the lead and lost in overtime, 10-9.

"We felt like we really wanted this game," Kirschner said.

Kirschner was one of the most prolific scorers in Landon history, compiling 162 points in his career, including 83 in his senior season. He then went on to play at Princeton. After college, he returned to Landon and coached under Bordley for five seasons.

"He's definitely the reason I'm in education and coaching," said Kirschner, who has a law degree. "He made a huge impression on me. When I coached with him, I said, 'I want to be like Coach Bordley.' He's just a larger than life guy to me."

Kirschner will return to Landon next year as a teacher and assistant to Landon's headmaster. He also will do some coaching, and though to what extent is not certain, Bordley is happy he will again have Kirschner on his side.

"Rick's one of my best friends," Bordley said. "I consider myself an older brother to him. . . . He's a superb coach."

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