

IAC lacrosse: Georgetown Prep holds off Bullis, will play Landon for title

By Matt Brooks, Published: May 11

If there was any doubt whether the sting of [No. 4 Georgetown Prep's 8-7 overtime loss](#) at [No. 5 Bullis](#) last month lingered heading into Wednesday's Interstate Athletic Conference boys' lacrosse semifinal, the Little Hoyas wasted little time proving they were ready for a rematch.

Led by three goals from senior [Cory Dobyms](#) during a first quarter in which Prep won all five faceoffs, dominated groundballs and scored more goals (five), than Bullis registered shots (four), the Little Hoyas raced to a commanding 6-0 halftime lead.

At the nine-minute mark of the third quarter with their team pitching a 7-0 shutout, the Prep student section began chanting "We want [Landon](#)" — which defeated Episcopal 12-4 earlier in the night to advance to Saturday's final. Perhaps a bit too soon.

The Bulldogs finally found an offensive spark moments later when senior [Kylor Bellistri](#) scored the first of his two goals and Prep had to fend off a furious Bullis rally to escape with an 8-6 victory.

"Before the game, [Bobby \[Gribbin\]](#) and Cory told us this could be the last game we play together as seniors that means anything," senior defender Jeff Hale said. "We found motivation right off the bat with that and it really sparked us in the beginning."

With Gribbin, a Penn State-bound senior midfielder, gobbling up each of the first eight faceoffs, the Little Hoyas (17-3) controlled possession for most of the first half, out-shooting their hosts 24-9 in the opening 24 minutes. The few times Bullis got the ball in its offensive zone, the ball either ended up over the end line on a failed pass attempt or in the stick of [Ford Martin](#), Prep's sure-handed senior goalie who finished with 10 saves.

But after [Joel Blockowicz](#) (two goals) put the Little Hoyas up 7-0 seconds into the third quarter, Bullis found an opening as Prep suffered what Coach Kevin Giblin called a "nuclear meltdown." Four fourth-quarter penalties by Prep kept the Bulldogs (13-5) on the offensive and junior [Nick Fisher](#)'s second goal with 2 minutes 49 seconds left capped a streak of five consecutive tallies spanning nine minutes.

"They put me on Kylor tonight because I played basketball and they thought I could work through the picks well," said Hale, who teamed with fellow senior Henry Williams to contain Bellistri and senior Cary Garfinkel for much of the game. "That worked early, but we kind of took our foot off the pedal in the fourth quarter."

The Little Hoyas finally regained their footing defensively in the final minute, fending off two desperation

shots from Bullis to avenge their first loss to the Bulldogs since 1989 and advance to Saturday's final against top-ranked Landon (19-2). The Bears blew open a 3-3 tie late in their regular season meeting with Prep to claim a [10-5 win](#) and have not lost since March 19.

Unlike previous seasons, this spring the IAC did not crown a regular season champion, meaning Saturday's winner will take the league title outright — a prime opportunity for Prep to make up for a 3-2 regular season record, disappointing by their lofty standards.

“Our one goal to start the season was to win the IAC championship — not to go undefeated, just to win the league,” Dobyms said. “After we lost to Bullis and Landon we really dug down, and we just want to keep that going.”

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