

he did after hearing the news. This is our season, this game. I just knew I

ing towards the goal, received a pass, just outside the crease, from Joe Pao-

body stormed the field. Nagel's goal eclipsed a come-

The Bears struggled to clear the ball in the third quarter which gave

thought would be able to play at all this season.

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There's cause for optimism in Wootton for boys LAX

The playoffs begin this week for area lacrosse teams and Wootton is a likely favorite to capture the county's first lacrosse state title.

However, the Patriots were denied a state title.

Last year, Wootton once again advanced deep into the postseason before falling short of a state championship.

So, will this be the year the Patriots finally get over the hump and capture that elusive title?

As the top seed in the 4A/3A West Region, Wootton has drawn a first round bye and will play the winner of the matchup between Blair and Bethesda-Chevy Chase.

At 14-0, the Patriots enter the postseason on a roll after last weekend's 11-5 victory over Quince Orchard in the season finale.

The Patriots are loaded with weapons on both offense and de-

fense.

There's junior attack Jeff Zifrony along with sophomore attack Chris Doran. The dynamic duo combined for seven goals in the victory over Quince Orchard.

Midfielders Mark Jutkowitz, Gordie Gold and Mike Cresham have all been solid contributors this season as well as goalie Yanni Rindler, one of the best in the business.

"He's unbelievable," Zifrony said about Rindler. "He's definitely the best goalie in the county if not the state. He's unbelievable, every aspect of the game."

As for Wootton capturing Montgomery County's first state title in boys lacrosse, some are opti-

mistic.

"We've got to work a hundred times more," said Doran. "It's going to be a stretch but we're willing to put the work in and I think we can get there."

Meanwhile, on the private school front, Landon and Georgetown Prep will likely vie for the Interstate Athletic Conference title later this month.

In yet another classic battle between two of the state's top lacrosse programs, Landon defeated Georgetown Prep last week by the slimmest of margins, earning a 6-5 victory over their conference rivals.

I've seen both squads play this year so believe me when I tell you

there's no shortage of talent on the field when they get together.

Among the stars for Landon are Andrew Nagel (who scored the game-winning goal against Prep), David Mann, Joseph Paoletta, Timothy Keena, Josh Offit, Austin Dodson, Matthew Morrison, John Blizzard, William Leighton and Will Joyce.

The Little Hoyas boast a deep and talented roster as well, with players such as Brian Casey, Sean Taylor, Billy Gribbin, Nick Serena, Billy Falatko, Pat Cotter, Mike Pirone, Cory Dobyans and John Kemp leading the way.

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The Sporting View
by **Brandy L. Simms**

Two years ago, the Wootton boys made history by becoming the first team from Montgomery County to win a state playoff game.