

A R G U S S P O R T S

Boys Lacrosse Takes Home Championship

By Damali Ramirez '18

On the edge of their seats, spectators intensely stare at the scoreboard counting down the seconds. 3, 2, 1, the moment has finally arrived! On May 20, 2018, the boys lacrosse team made history against Christopher Columbus High School by taking home the PSAL Division A City Championship after a seven year wait.

The Hornets quickly demonstrated their sharp offensive and defensive skills with Sean Walsh '18 scoring on the first shot of the game. The Hornets ensured the ball stayed within the attack area, taking advantage of shot opportunities. Midfielder Jordan Brammer '18 and attacker Ian Kenny '21 each scored two goals in the quarter, ending the first quarter with a score of 5-1.

However, Columbus gained momentum in the second quarter, aggressively fighting for ground balls and keeping the ball out of their defensive half. The Hornets held only a two point lead, 8-6, after the second quarter.

"Even though they went on a run in the second half, our guys stayed composed and made sure that we secured the lead for the rest of the game," stated Brammer. "We played with so much aggression and poise, fighting for every ground ball and making some of our best passes all season."

In the third quarter, tension shifted back and forth as the Hornets desperately tried to keep their two goal lead. A running shot by midfielder Carlos Gomez '19 brought the score to 11-9, but the two point lead lasted shortly as Columbus soon cut the score to 11-10.

The Hornets maintained a strong defense in the final quarter, constantly body-checking other players. At one point, a Columbus player's stick broke, proving the Hornets were giving it their all. Goalie Edwin Ramos '18 showed his best performance during the last quarter, blocking three critical shots in the last minutes of the fourth quarter.

"There was definitely a lot of pressure throughout the whole game because the score was so close. We were only winning by one in the last minute, so we had to play our hardest to finish the game," he stated.

As the sound of the final buzzer echoed through the field, the Hornets threw their sticks in the air celebrating their accomplishment. After receiving their medals, they ran to their coach, carrying him as he proudly held the trophy in the air.

"I was very proud of the boys' performance on Sunday. We got out to a great start and the other team battled back,"

said head coach Mr. Zach Alexander. "The boys stuck together and competed on every play. The boys accepted the challenge and kept making tough play after tough play to respond to every adversity, not just in this game but throughout the whole season."

The Hornets celebrated once again as Walsh won the Most Valuable Player award.

"To win MVP was astonishing and to have my team cheering for me as well as the stands when my name was called to receive it was one of those moments you'll never forget," said Walsh. "I couldn't have done it without my team though, they are like brothers to me, and they all had my back throughout

the season, as I had theirs. It's crazy to think about it, and seeing that trophy reminds me of the fight I put up to earn it."

Edward Nocella '19 and David Liu '19 also scored. Gomez's shot turned out to be the game-winner.

In the regular season, the Hornets nearly had an undefeated season but lost to Columbus with a score of 4-5. This was their final opportunity to redeem themselves and prove they're the best in the city.

"It felt amazing to get the victory and I was just so happy for everyone on the team especially the seniors who got to end their high school lacrosse careers on top," said Mr. Alexander.



Photo Credit: Emile Brammer

The Hornets proudly carried Mr. Alexander, celebrating their accomplishment.

Girls Handball Takes Second Place in Championship

By Edward Kim '19

The girls handball team, led by Mr. Jeff Williams, faced off against Brooklyn Tech High School in the finals for second place.

Initially, in the playoffs, the team did not play in more playoff games due to their record in the regular season, which propelled them into matches towards the end of the playoffs. This allowed the team to practice and be prepared for their upcoming games.

The girls team was able to blow out their opponents in their first two playoff games against Tottenville and Stuyvesant with a commanding lead of 5-0 in both. The semi-finals was a little more difficult for the team, but they came through with the victory against Bayside, who was undefeated for two years. The Hornets were able to get the win with the score of 3-2 and advance to the finals.

"I was so proud of my teammates. That match was tough but everyone worked hard in practice and on our own time so it was nice to see all the hard work show off against them with the win," said Aime Chau '19.

In the final series against Brooklyn Tech, the girls handball team found themselves with their back against the wall with deficits in their doubles match. The score at first was 12-3, and yet they worked through the obstacles and were able to come back and win that game with a score of 21-20. After this match, the other team was able to win 4-1 and take the championship, with Midwood girls handball team taking home second place.

Even though Midwood did not win the championship game this year, the girls are preparing already for the next season.

"First place would've been nice, but I'm so proud of what we accomplished all together as a team. We really put in our best and we're ready to come back next year and take the whole thing. We have Coach Danielle with us now and with her experience as a professional to teach us new things, I'm sure we'll be ready next year," said Suki Kuang '19.

Midwood's girls handball team has come a long way. Having won PSAL championships in the 2014-2015 school year, the girls have fought hard to be champions again, and this year they've come close. It was a great way to end the season, especially for the seniors who won't be returning for the next season.

Hornets Strike Out of Playoffs After Tough Season

By John Rolon '19

In the interest of full disclosure, John Rolon '19 is on the Baseball team.

The varsity baseball team played and lost their last two games against Bronx High School of Science on May 23 and Abraham Lincoln High School on May 25. Despite a valiant effort, they weren't able to step up to the plate as they had in their winning game against Grand Street High School on May 18. However, their spirit and their sense of teamwork is the testament to their hard work and is an example of how they win in the eyes of our school.

Looking to get back into their rhythm, after their defeat to Grand Street on May 5, Midwood put up an intense fight. Gregory Dorfman '19 was on the mound and gave up one run in four innings pitched, punching in two strikeouts. Steve Guercio '18 came in to pitch the rest of the game, and despite giving up four runs, he threw four strikeouts in two innings pitched. Although Midwood put up runs, both scored by Jared Ramos '18, Midwood was handed the loss, by a score of 5 to 3.

Following the bitter defeat, they sought to regain their momentum when they played McKee/Staten Island Tech, their second game on a three game stretch on the road. Alexander Muchnick '19 pitched two innings, tossing one strikeout and gave up four runs. Jason Goldblum '19 came in to relieve Muchnick, giving up one run, but also throwing two strikeouts in one inning pitched. Finally, to finish the game was Christopher Kelly '20, who finished strong, giving up no more runs and tossing four strikeouts in four innings pitched. Key runs by Mark Uritsky '18, Antonio Digrigoli '21, and Julian Lightburn '19, however, were not enough to give Midwood the win.

"We failed to execute in so many aspects of our game that we normally succeed in," said Ramos. "We should have been more hungry at the plate, looking to square up the first fastball we saw in the strike zone."

The next game was their last away game of the three game stretch against New Dorp, and Midwood was looking to snap their two game losing streak. Daniel Lentini '18 was on the

mound and tossed three strikeouts in only four innings. To add on to this pitching performance, Dorfman finished the game with three strikeouts in three innings pitched. Runs scored by Mark Barrett Jr. '19, Tylor Martinez '19, Ramos, and Lightburn sealed New Dorp's fate, as Midwood beat them by a score of 4 to 0.

"We knew going in that we needed to get momentum back from the last two games," said Daniel Pero '19. "We know the stakes and everyone did whatever it took to win."

Midwood was looking to win as they faced Su-

nick came in to relieve Dorfman in the sixth inning but gave up on run. Guercio closed the game and struck out two batters. The only key hits in the game were Pero, Jalen Robinson '18, Ramos, and Lightburn. Despite these hot at-bats, Midwood was handed their second loss in a row, by a score of 1 to 0.

The last game of the season was on May 18 against Grand Street, as they looked to finish the season strong on Senior Day. Lentini was on the bump, and he punched in four strikeouts in six innings pitched, giving up only one run.

Guercio came in to relieve Lentini, and despite giving up three runs, he punched in four strikeouts in two innings pitched. Ramos closed the game strong, as he struck out two batters in one inning pitched. Key runs by James Shea '18 and Ramos, as well as a walkoff by Shea, gave Midwood the win with a score of 5 to 4.

"The energy was great the entire game," said Anthony Damon '18. "The score didn't matter because we felt as though we were in the game the whole time, and the energy definitely contributed to our comeback and eventful walkoff win."

The first round of the playoffs started off well and allowed for optimism to blossom. A win of 2 to 0 against Bronx High School of Science because of Dorfman pitching a complete game, allowed for no runs as the Hornets conquered.

"Based on our first playoff game we could have improved on our energy and focus in the start of the game," said Lightburn, "We lacked focus which let a team that was not on our level stick around."

Looking to move past the second round, the Hornets faced Lincoln in an away game with Lentini, Guercio, and Muchnick on the bump. Despite a late homer by Shea, they lost to Lincoln by a score of 7 to 5, which ended the season for the Hornets.

"It was really a privilege to be a member of the Midwood Baseball team and I have learned so much from the guys and the coaches that can't be taught in a classroom," said Shea, "The adversity we faced made each and every one of us stronger and we are better now because of it."



Photo Credit: Continental Studios

The boys stepped off the plate after losing to Grand Street.

san E. Wagner High School. Guercio started the game and, although he gave up six runs in four innings pitched, he punched in three strikeouts. Goldblum came in to relieve Guercio and gave up two runs in three innings pitched, punching in three strikeouts. Runs scored by Martinez were not enough to give Midwood the win, and the Hornets lost 8 to 2.

Back on the road for their home game, since Midwood field was still closed for renovations, Midwood faced Tottenville on May 17 as the home team without a home field. Dorfman was on the mound, and he pitched five scoreless innings in six innings pitched, punching in four strikeouts. Much-