

L.I. CLASS C FINAL: COLD SPRING HARBOR 11, SHOREHAM-WR 3

CSH's stingy 'D' stymies SWR

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The Shoreham-Wading River boys lacrosse team had plenty of chances to make a game of yesterday's Long Island Class C final at Hofstra.

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Behind by three, the Wildcats held the ball for the majority of the third quarter yet managed only one shot.

Credit the Cold Spring Harbor defense with another lock-down performance. The Seahawks shut out Shoreham-Wading River for the final 26 minutes en route to an 11-3 victory and the program's first L.I. championship.

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CSH (17-2) faces Section I's Rye (18-2) in a state semifinal at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow at West Point's Michie Stadium. The Seahawks, who lost to eventual state champ SWR in their only other L.I. title game appearance in 2002, have allowed just six goals in three playoff victories.

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"They flushed out a lot, they covered in every aspect, they got out on our guys and stayed on our hands," SWR midfielder John Austin said of a CSH defense that's so athletic, it rarely uses double-teams. "They kind of just read the next pass and were on it so fast that we couldn't really get our hands free and move the ball the way we wanted."

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Austin faked two defenders into the slot to score the goal that tied it at 2 with 5:16 left in the first half, and SWR defender Mike Sopko picked up a ground ball deep in the defensive zone on the ensuing possession. But Sopko's attempted outlet pass was knocked down and scooped up by CSH midfielder Keith Casadei, who caught SWR goalie Zak Bates out of position and scored easily to give the Seahawks the lead for good at 3-2 with 4:11 left.

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"It was definitely the turning point in the game," said CSH junior attack Corey Winkoff, who scored two of his three goals in the final three minutes of the first half, the second on a righthanded whip shot that started a 7-0 game-ending run. "We needed that goal to get back on top, get some momentum. Then we started scoring and the defense started making stops."

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Seahawks goalie Adam Ghitelman made the biggest of his eight stops during a man-down situation with four minutes left in the second quarter, turning away Brett Drost's low liner with a kick save that preserved a 6-3 lead. From there, CSH forced a series of turnovers and also benefited from several errant passes by the Wildcats (10-10).

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SWR's offensive inefficiency, though, mostly was a product of the Seahawks' stellar team defense. "We're always ready to slide," CSH defenseman Dylan D'Alessio said. "We only let up the outside shot and we never give up layups, so basically we're looking to keep them on the outside and let Adam make the plays."

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CSH coach Dennis Bonn called it "a good way of looking at it." "We play as a unit," he said, "and if we make a mistake, then we leave it in the hands of our goalie."

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