

Lustgarten, Rotanz spark SWR's lacrosse win

BY BOB HERZOG

April 28, 2009

Of course, a coach's son would know exactly what to do.

"Every time he comes around the crease, I know he'll find me," eighth-grader Timmy Rotanz said of Shoreham-Wading River's stellar senior attackman Joey Lustgarten.

So when Lustgarten spun one way, Rotanz spun the other. "He mirrored me," Lustgarten said of Rotanz's picture-perfect finish off a Lustgarten feed during a dynamic nine-goal first half that helped visiting SWR dominate Rocky Point, 14-6, last night in a battle of undefeated Suffolk Division II teams.

A full house that was split 50-50 in terms of fan support for the neighboring schools watched Rotanz, son of Wildcats coach Tom Rotanz, score four goals and watched Lustgarten pass for four assists. The crowd also enjoyed Mike Perdie's three-goal performance and some timely goalkeeping by Nick Longo as SWR improved to 9-0 and 7-0 in Division III. Rocky Point fell to 8-1, 5-1.

After building a 9-4 first-half lead that included a spectacular no-look behind-the-back goal by Brett Miller, SWR sagged a bit early in the third quarter as Rocky Point scored twice to cut the deficit to 9-6. That's when Longo stepped up. During one key sequence, he stopped Tom Kelly twice from point-blank range and also made two sharp saves on Matt Palasek.

"Our defense played great. Even when they got in close, we still had our sticks on their hands."

His saves kept it at 9-6 entering the final minute of the third period. That's when SWR put away the game. First Perdie scored on a feed from Lustgarten at 1:00. Rotanz made it 10-6 on a pass from defenseman Sean Mahoney, who played an outstanding game. Then came the real back-breaker. Nik Mullen scored an unassisted goal with just 4 seconds left for a 12-6 margin that made the fourth quarter an exercise in futility for the Eagles.

"We wanted to get on them at the beginning of the second half," Tom Rotanz said. "But instead we got them in the final minute. We really played the transition game well."

The coach was not only pleased with his son's breakout game, but with the unselfishness of his pass-happy team. "They're always looking for one more pass," Rotanz said. "That one extra pass to someone who might have a better shot. We show a lot of options and a lot of movement. And they all look for each other."

They all looked good last night.