

Long Island Class C Final

SWR's defense denies CSH Goalie Malandrino exceptional in 9-5 victory

June 6, 2007

Before heading onto the field, Shoreham-Wading River boys lacrosse coach Tom Rotanz told goalie Lee Malandrino to relax.

"I said, 'Why be nervous,?'" Rotanz said. "'Everyone wants to be you. You're playing in the Long Island championship game.'" "I said, 'Enjoy it. Don't be denied.' "

He wasn't, but plenty of Cold Spring Harbor shots were.

Malandrino's 18 saves and an aggressive defense helped the Wildcats upset the defending state champion, 9-5, for the Long Island Class C title Tuesday night at Stony Brook University. Shoreham-Wading River last won a L.I. title in 2003 as a Class B school. SWR, which lost to CSH in last season's L.I. title game, plays Rye in the state semifinals at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow at Hofstra.

"Every single game he's kept us in there, but today was exceptional," said attack Joe Lustgarden of Malandrino. "He played absolutely amazing today. You couldn't have asked for more."

After Lustgarden assisted on three goals to help give Shoreham (16-3) a 3-1 with 8:50 left in the second quarter, Malandrino made two saves in six seconds to keep the Seahawks from getting back in.

Shoreham took a 6-2 lead in the third and CSH got as close as 6-4 on a Cam Schnier goal with 8:03 left in the game. Brett Drost's second goal made it 7-4 and Malandrino followed by stopping a Corey Winkoff shot. Kyle Sopko also scored two goals for Shoreham.

"I think the offense feeds off of when I make a save," Malandrino said. "When they make a goal, I'm like, they are not going to score on me."

Cold Spring Harbor (17-2) didn't get many chances, especially in the third. David Lau scored two goals for the Seahawks, both in the first half.

The Wildcats' defense held CSH to four shots in the third quarter, forced bad passes and

short possessions.

"All the things that we worked on all week was them putting pressure on us," CSH coach Dennis Bonn said. "We didn't take care of it. They deserved to win."

When the game ended, nearly every Shoreham player's sticks and gloves were tossed in the air as they ran to pile on Malandrino in the goal crease.

"We did that during the counties," Lustgarden said. "But I think everyone loved it more this time."