

CLASS C

Austin powers SWR to crown

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

joseph.staszewski@newsday.com; Compiled by Andy Slawson

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SYRACUSE - Shoreham-Wading River coach Tom Rotanz could hear Corning East (Section IV) saying, "Lock off 7, Lock off 7" throughout the game.

Corning East couldn't.

Senior John Austin scored a career-high six goals to help lead Shoreham to a convincing 14-10 victory yesterday in the state Class C final at Cicero-North Syracuse High School. It is Shoreham's second title. The Wildcats (18-3) won in 2002.

"It just didn't matter. He was going to do it," Rotanz said of Austin. "He was saying you are not denying me this opportunity."

After a first half dominated by Shoreham in which it took a 5-1 lead, Corning scored two goals in 50 seconds to cut the Wildcats' lead to 5-3 with 7:40 remaining in the third. Austin then scored three of the Wildcats' next four goals, including two while a man down, for a 9-3 lead with 1:58 left in the quarter. He scored the first off one of Joe Lustgarden's five assists and the third on a Kevin DeFranco pass. Nick Madden scored one of his three goals in between. Austin capped the run by stealing a pass at midfield and running in for the score.

"He played amazing today," senior Matt Vernam said.

The Wildcats took a 14-6 lead on a Madden goal with 7:13 left in the game. Corning East (19-4) scored four unanswered goals to end the game. The last was Matt Pierotti's third goal with 33 seconds left.

Shoreham's scoring was a swift turnaround from when it netted only four goals against Rye (I) in the semifinals. The passes were crisper and the shots plentiful.

"We came out today and everything clicked," Austin said. "With the Rye game, we just couldn't hit the cage. This game, we just came out and weren't stopping. We just kept firing."

Ryan Mahoney helped lead a Shoreham defense that dominated the first half. It bullied the Trojans and caused numerous passes to be thrown well out of bounds. Corning East finally scored on its lone shot of the second quarter to make it 5-1 with 3:45 left in the first half.

The second half ended the same way it has for Shoreham since the county final: with hugs and a big dog pile. "As soon as we won, everyone went right to the crease," Austin said.

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Final - At Cicero-North Syracuse

Shoreham-Wading River	3	2	4	5	-	14
Corning East (Section IV)	0	1	3	6	-	10

Goals - SWR: Austin 6, Madden 3, Delia 2, Drost, Lustgarden, Marsicano; CE: Pierotti 3, Keefer 2, Bloor 2, Mandell, Simmons, King.
Saves - SWR: Malandrino 6 ; CE: Holden 15.

No taming these 'Cats

Shoreham-Wading River boys lacrosse has won seven straight Suffolk titles. Here are some of the Wildcats' impressive highlights in program history:

Eight-time Suffolk finalists

Seven-time Suffolk champions (2001-2007)

Three-time L.I. champs (2002, 2003 ,2007)

Three-time state semifinalists (2002, 2003 ,2007)

Two-time state champions (2002, 2007)