



Varsity Players & Parents –

As we return from 10 days away from school and lacrosse, it's time to get back to work. There are only 6 weeks left in the lacrosse season and every day is important. The coaches will demand focus and intensity.

In this letter I will cover 3 topics. 1- An evaluation of the first half of the season. 2-A snap shot of where we are today. 3- And a look ahead.

A Look Back:

First, it is worth noting, that I am proud of how this team operates together. “Band of Brothers” is our slogan, but what’s amazing to me is we are living it. The California trip, practices, games... I see a love and respect for the game of lacrosse and for your fellow teammates. I hope each of you continues this approach. Look out for each other on and off the field. Commit to excellence and the team goals. And never forget how important this is.

As I reflect on the first half of the season, there is both good things to build upon and some things we need to clean up. Varsity is 5-3. And for the record, I am not panicking. I am not disappointed. I still believe we have the deepest bench and the most athletically talented players in the state. And I have seen us getting better every practice and every game. Our best lacrosse is in front of us. And to ensure this, we will have additional coaches added to the staff. That means more eyes and focus on improving every player.

For those that might be questioning my methodology to player decisions, let me explain how I approached March. I tested and evaluated each player. I played everyone in games and I watched all of the game film, including California. It was a very long tryout. And during this period I was very interested in how each player handled adversity. How did that attackman react after committing a turnover? How did our FOGO react after a lost face off? How did our goalie react after a goal scored against us? We all need to be fighters. We can’t let mistakes define us. After a mistake on the field, we need every player to look ahead and make the next play.

Warning: I am going to get statistical on you all. I have a contribution formula which is one of my main measures for player performance. Each game I calculate this on an individual level and on a team level. And I can use the cumulative season data to see where players are at. The formula is as follows:

$$\begin{array}{cccccc}
 & \text{Offense} & \text{GBs} & \text{Net Turnovers} & \text{Bad Shots} & \text{Penalties} \\
 \text{Player} & & & & & \\
 \text{Contribution} & = & [\text{Goals} + \text{Assists}] & + & [\text{GBs}] & - & [\text{TOs} - \text{CTOs}] & - & [\text{SOG} - \text{Goals}] & - & [1.25 \times \text{Penalty minutes}]
 \end{array}$$

Data doesn’t lie. And while it can’t measure intangibles, over time it can accurately show a players contribution. By using the formula and computing the total # at the end of a game, we can rate a player’s performance. If a player gets 2+, they had a good game. Between 0 and 1, they had an average game. And anything -1 or less, they had a bad game. Additionally it can predict team success. In our three losses this year, using the contribution formula and taking the sum of the entire team, our totals for those games were 19.0, 22.9, and 21.4. For our wins, the totals were 38.8, 44.5, 44.6, and 62.5. So we can say, that if we get 30+ as a team, we should win every game. In a way, this formula also spells out the recipe to win games. More GBs, less turnovers, smart shots, less penalties.

All in all, with everything stated above, I think we have a very good indication of where every player is at, what we need to work on, and how to win games.

Where we are at Today:

Using the "Player Contribution" formula, and game film, I am publishing a depth chart (below) for how we will start the second half of the season. I remind each of you that if you want to change where you are on this list, it is up to you. And if you have any questions with why you are where you are on this list, then ask a coach.

Varsity	ATTACK		MIDFIELD		FACE OFFS		LSM		DEFENSE		GOALIE	
	1	Tenny Schmidt	1	Kimball Reece	1	Taylor Owens	1	Kauner Owen	1	Cody Chase	1	Houston Kraenbuhl
	2	Noah Lund	2	Isaiah Avalos	2	Sione Lund	2	MJ Cirillo	2	Matt Powley	2	Curtis Canyon
	3	Easton Albert	3	Justus Peterson	3	Jeremy Fehoko	3	Cole Moore	3	Matthew Monosson		
	4	Jake Nydegger	4	Chase Ebeling					4	Ryan Carrigan		
		5	Keb Heasley					5	Josh Holmstrom			
		6	Jeremy Fehoko					6	Brayden Kenney			
		7	Luke Crowley					7	Riley Stroud			
		8	Ralston Truett									
		9	Jordan Ross									
		10	Adam Saucedo									
		11	Matt Hille									

Looking Ahead:

As we look ahead, there will be some changes.

- Practice times: Will be 7:00-9:00 pm for Varsity and JV through the remainder of the season. I know this is a departure from what was originally communicated and I apologize if this conflicts with other commitments. Please know that stadium field usage has been a frustrating issue this year and I promise to use what we have learned to ensure a more proactive and clear approach next year.
- Practices: They will be more competitive and intense. With more coaches brings the ability to run more drills with smaller groups. Which means more touches for every player and a deliberate focus on technique and correction. Additionally, conditioning will be a beneficial byproduct.
- Playing time: Some players have earned the right to more playing time in games. Others may need to work in practices if they want to see playing time. I value players who can fill a role. Each of you are important to this team. You have all contributed to the success of this team to date. And if the coaches ask you to fill a role in practice, then do it for the team. It may not be what you want, but it will be what the team needs.
- Games: We will be more focused on discipline and accountability. If you are not doing what we ask on the field, you will find yourself on the bench.
- Focus: Winning the final game cannot be our only focus. The journey is our focus. Shortcuts can't be tolerated. Hard work is the only way. How do we focus on each individual match-up and dominate our opponent? We can never overlook or underestimate anyone.

I'll end with this. We have 7 games left in the regular season. 4 of those opponents are in the current top 10. Players - We need your best. Be coachable. We will be giving lots of feedback and making lots of corrections. And do extra work. Do more than the minimum. What you put into these six weeks will define our success. Parents - we need your unconditional support. Together we will be successful.

-Coach Schaf
Band of Brothers