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NOTEBOOK

Another gold for boys lacrosse team

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ROCHESTER, N.Y. - Long Island's scholastic boys lacrosse teams come to every Empire State Games about as popular as Con Edison currently is in Queens.

"I realized that in our first game against Western," Garden City attack Dean Gibbons said. "I think most of the hatred is because as long as there's been lacrosse in the Empires, we've done fairly well."

Nothing breeds resentment like success and since boys lacrosse came to the Games in 1984, Long Island has medaled every year. Long Island secured gold medal No. 13 last night with an 18-6 victory over Central New York, the second straight year it has won gold. Gibbons led all scorers with six goals and Huntington's Shamel Bratton and Chaminade's Ryan Young each added four goals.

Long Island (4-0) plays Adirondack (0-4) this morning at 10 and will likely finish the Games undefeated. Of course, after Long Island swept the boys lacrosse state championships in Class A (West Islip), B (Huntington), and C (Cold Spring Harbor), was there ever any doubt? "If you look at it, we won three state championships on the Island," said Bratton, one of 11 Empire State team members who won state championships. "Our attitude was we should win every game up here."

Long Island survived a brutally physical contest against Central, which by game's end had accrued nearly twice as many penalties as goals. Long Island hit back but mostly with its superior speed and stick skills.

Gibbons scored three goals in the first half and Young and Bratton each had two as Long Island opened a 9-3 lead. Young's fourth goal with seven minutes left made it 16-6.

Men's basketball

Rebounding less than 24 hours after coughing up a five-point lead with 14 seconds left in an 81-78 loss to New York City, Long Island's open men's basketball team came back with a 70-64 victory over Adirondack yesterday and will play Adirondack for the bronze medal this morning at 8.

Long Island trailed 30-26 at the half yesterday, but former Whitman standout guard Nick Carter hit four second-half three-pointers to lead the comeback. Carter had 13 points and Hofstra's Antoine Agudio, also from Whitman, led the way with 19 points. Anthony Cox of West Hempstead added 14 points.

Long Island's scholastic boys team also will play for the bronze, also against Adirondack and also at 8 this morning.

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