

# Defense leads the way again

## ■ Mustangs 10, Marines 4

By Joe Werkmeister

**MOUNT SINAI**—During their four straight trips to the Class C county championship game from 2003-06, the Mount Sinai Mustangs gave up anywhere from 7.28 to 8.88 goals per game in a season.

Last year the defense limited teams to 5.39 goals per game.

So how much could the defense possibly improve this season?

Well, through eight

**Boys** games the figure continues to shrink. After a 10-4 non-league win against Long

**Lacrosse** Beach Tuesday night, the Mustangs have averaged just 3.62 goals against.

No team has yet to score more than six goals against the Mustangs. The two teams that equaled that — Shoreham-Wading River and Sayville — are among the best teams in the state in Class B.

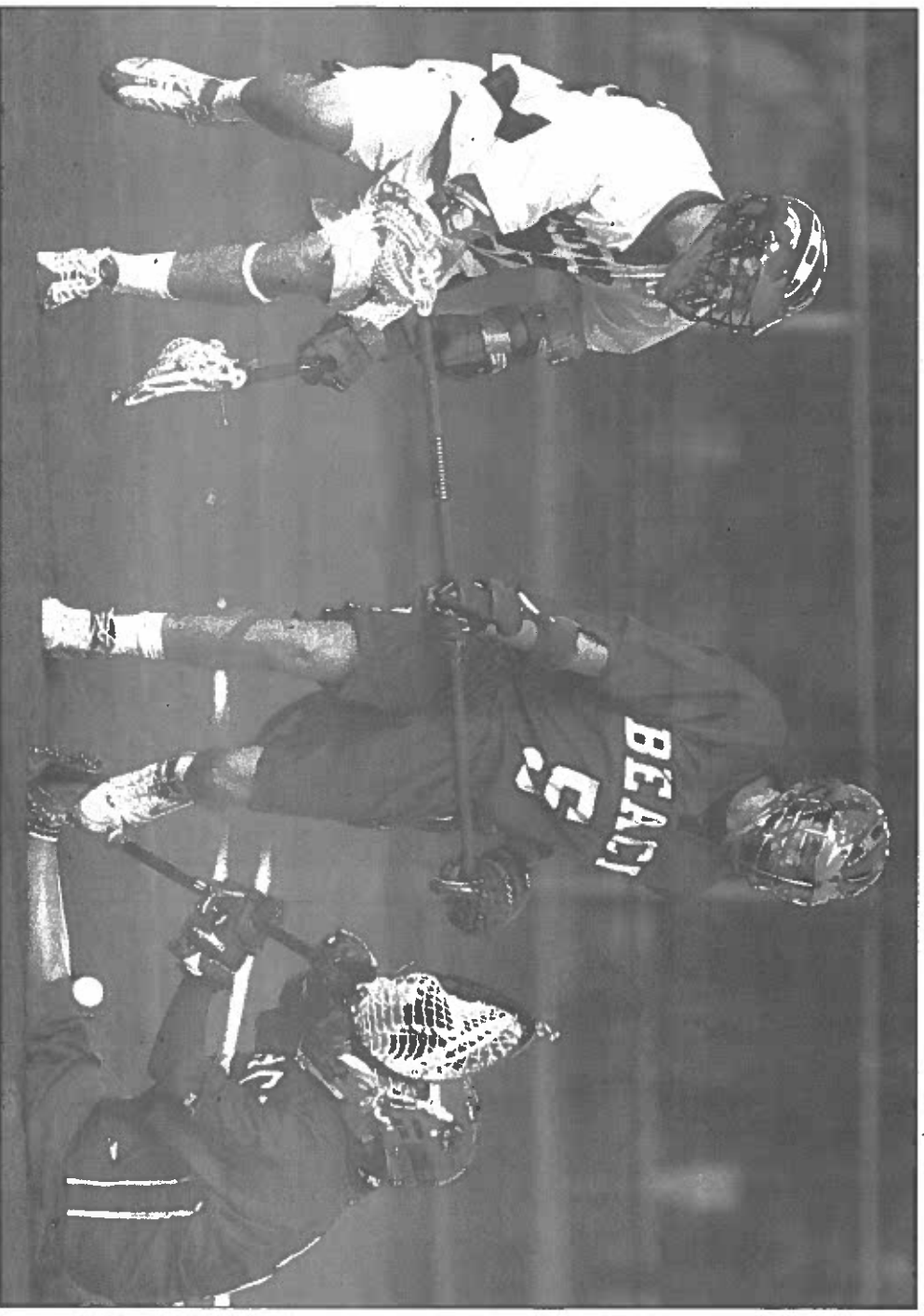
"The defense has been our staple," said Mount Sinai coach Joe Cuozzo. "They keep us in the game."

At the heart of the defense is senior Andrew Zoly in goal. He had another typical game Tuesday, stopping 13 shots, most of which came from the outside as the defenders limited any action up close.

It was a game earlier, Friday at Comsewogue, where Zoly and the Mustang defense really strutted their stuff. Facing a Warrior team that was ranked fourth in the state in Class B, the Mustangs limited them to four goals in a triple overtime thriller.

The 5-4 win helped solidify the Mustangs' place on the lacrosse map this year and Tuesday's win against Long Beach — seeded No. 4 in Nassau Class A this season — only added to it.

"It wasn't really nerves or anything," Zoly said of the overtime against Comsewogue. "We all had a good feeling about it. We thought something good would happen and we just had to play our game and if we play our game nobody can really score on us."



Mount Sinai junior Mike Chapman scores one of his three goals Tuesday night on a low shot past Long Beach goalie Ed Collins, who made nine saves. Chapman leads the team in goals with 23.

Sun photo by Peter Blasi

Eric Balslov scored the OT winner we played well," Zoly said. "We can off an assist from Jimmy Langton, build on that."

Cuozzo wanted to see the momentum from that big win carry over into Tuesday and it did. The Mustangs jumped out to a 3-0 first quarter lead against the Marines and were never in jeopardy of losing it.

It took Long Beach 20 minutes and 42 seconds to score a goal. In the second half the Mustangs opened with three straight goals to take a 7-1 lead.

"We didn't play our best game but

son we worked together and during the season we work real hard to just make us real tight and give up less goals as possible and give our offense an easier

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# Wildcats find a new home, for a day

## ■ Dalers 6, Wildcats 2

By Joe Werkmeister

**MOUNT SINAI**—The sight of Shoreham-Wading River wearing its home gold jerseys on the turf at Mount Sinai High School may have seemed strange. But so it was Tuesday afternoon, with the Wildcats "hosting" Farmingdale in the first game of a boys lacrosse doubleheader.

**Boys** With the Mustangs and Wildcats both scheduled to play non-league games on the same day, the idea came up for Shoreham to play on the turf before Mount Sinai's game.

"We found out Shoreham was going to play Farmingdale the same day so we said let's make it a Nassau/Suffolk doubleheader and we'll have it at our place since we have a nice facility," said Mount Sinai coach Joe Cuozzo.

It worked out well for the Mustangs, who beat Long Beach at night, 10-4.

As for the Wildcats, they suffered their second loss

of the season, losing 6-2 against the Class A Dalers. Their first loss came against Mountain Lakes of New Jersey, 9-3.

The Wildcats never got going offensively against a tough defensive unit that limited the Shoreham cutters from receiving good scoring opportunities.

"We just got to finish," said Shoreham coach Tom Rotanz. "We got to dodge and limit the turnovers."

Coming into the season the Wildcats were dealing with a new defensive unit and goalie. It's been the offense, though, that has struggled against the top competition.

The Dalers are ranked 15th in the state in Class A in the latest poll by the New York State Sportswriters Association.

The Wildcats were doomed by too many turnovers on offense. Far too often a possession ended without even a shot.

Farmingdale defensemen Travis Lyons and Keenan Ochwat presented problems for Shoreham all game, constantly disrupting the Wildcats' offense.

Ochwat opened the game with a goal off his long pole, splitting a double team and firing past Shore-

ham goalie Nick Longo.

The Dalers led 2-0 before the Wildcats got on the board when Nik Mullen scored off a feed from Mike Perdie with 1:37 left in the first quarter. The Wildcats wouldn't find the back of the net until 2:54 remained in the fourth quarter.

By the time Joey Lustgarten scored, the Dalers had already built up their lead and were on their way to a win.

The Wildcats did play well defensively to limit the Dalers to six goals. Against Massapequa, one of the better teams in Nassau Class A, the Dalers scored 12. The difference, though, is Massapequa managed to score 13 to earn a win.

The Dalers scored goals in each quarter against Shoreham, although never more than two in one quarter.

The Wildcats are still ranked second in the state in Class B. They'll keep busy with another tough non-league game Saturday at Massapequa. They'll come home to face Eastport/South Manor Wednesday before a crucial matchup with Rocky Point May 2.