

The 1948 North-South Game

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Lacrosse Week in Baltimore was climaxed by the North-South game, the seventh in this series of annual conflicts between the best players in the Northern and Southern districts of the Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association.

The night of June 11 was a perfect one for lacrosse and more than 4000 fans were attracted to Homewood for the clash, which the North won by a score of 11-6, to take the lead in the series, 4 games to 2, with one tie.

Despite the inexcusable roughness of the tilt, some clever lacrosse was exhibited. Unlike the 1947 contest, which produced fine cohesion on the attack, the 1948 game was more individualistic.

The Southern defense had trouble all evening in stopping such fine dodgers as Dick Merryman, John Nolan and Hank Fish and this accounted for the fact that so many penalties were called. The South tried its usual style of fast-breaking lacrosse but this was of no avail against such sterling defensive stars as McEnery, Spaulding and Allner. Also the South was unable to produce a dodger in critical moments. So when its passing was stymied the whole team was stymied. Coulter of Navy tried valiantly to pierce the North defense, but was stopped consistently. Ray Greene of Hopkins was successful on three occasions.

The North team was coached by Dick Colman of Princeton with Whoops Snively of Williams and Bob Maddux of Harvard as his assistants. Their practices were held at Mt. Washington.

Howdy Myers of Hopkins handled the South squad with the assistance of Bish Baker of Loyola and Ferris Thomsen of Penn. The team practiced at Homewood.

After the midget teams of Mt. Washington and Friends' School entertained the fans until it was dark enough for the lights to operate properly, the teams took the field and the game got under way very fast.

Merryman of Williams almost drew first blood for the North when he got in close to miss a close one from the crease. The South cleared and Tommy Tongue of Washington & Lee put the South in the lead by taking a pass from Smith to score 59 seconds after the opening whistle.

Nuttle was sent to the sidelines one minute for slashing and then was followed by Bunting who drew a minute for illegal checking. With two extra men the North soon tied the score when Fish of Princeton counted on a scoop shot from the crease.

Coulter put the South back in the lead some 20 seconds later on a fine play. He raced from behind the goal and sent it whizzing past Sam Ogden of Princeton who tended the North goal.

Ray Barton of Army knotted the count a minute later on an open shot 15 yards out.

Both defenses settled down at this point and it was eight minutes before another score was made. This was by Greene, who took a long pass from Freddie Smith, feinted his man nicely and placed the ball in the netting.

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The quarter ended with the South in the lead, 3-2.

The second quarter found the South upset somewhat by Brooke Tunstall drawing his first penalty of the year for holding. The team was offside on three occasions. Also it was in this period that the rough play started. Nolan of Penn State was given one minute for unnecessary roughness and the teams generally began to play the man rather than the ball.

Tunstall got the fourth goal for the South on a shot from the right of the crease, but O'Connor of RPI followed by making a fast break and scoring with a nicely placed high shot.

Greene got in close and seemed in excellent scoring position, but missed. Then Merryman tied the score for the North by making a fast break and a quick dodge to count with an easy shot.

The half ended with the score tied, 4-4.

The third and fourth quarters were marred by rough-play which drew frequent penalties.

Schultz of Navy and Nolan each drew minute penalties for fighting and then Bunting was sent to the box for slashing. Gaines of Princeton was given two minutes for slashing and then Travis of Army drew a half minute for being offside.

Herbert of Maryland got one minute for hooking and then Bunting drew another minute for slashing.

After the teams had settled down to lacrosse, Fish and Nolan put the North ahead to stay with fine dodges to score past Hoffecker.

Gaines counted the seventh goal for the North on a clever play from behind the crease and then Travis scored on an outside shot. Gaines again dented the netting for the North's ninth goal, but Tongue missed an easy shot with the goalie out. Greene scored the fifth goal for the South on a pass from Tongue.

The third quarter ended with the North leading, 9-5.

The fourth period was bitterly played, but the North had complete mastery of the game and ran the count to 11-6 before the final whistle.

Egbert of Army and Beard of RPI scored the final goals for the North, while Greene accounted for the South's goal in this period.

In recapitulation, the North produced some very fine players and the best of these seemed to be Fish, O'Connor and Merryman on the attack, and McEnery of Army and Allner of Princeton on the defense.

Yet there were others of the North who displayed fine lacrosse. Collins of Lehigh exhibited fine stickwork and really covered ground. Bernard of Harvard played well in the goal in relief of Ogden, while DeLiberti of Rutgers gave a fine performance as a defense substitute.

RPI again sent two fine players to the game in O'Connor and Beard.

Gaines was very clever in working from behind the goal, while Hank Fish was his usual brilliant self. Barton and Travis were very steady players.

Freddie Smith of Hopkins and Coulter led the South attack, followed very closely by Greene. Tunstall of Hopkins played his usual ball hawk game and retrieved the ball numerous times for his teammates.

Hoffecker of Maryland made numerous saves in the South goal, but wore himself out trying to clear the ball and sometimes had nothing left when a retrieve and a shot followed in close succession.

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In a between-the-halves ceremony Brooke Tunstall received the Jack Turnbull trophy for his season's play and Brooke also accepted the Wilson Wingate trophy as captain of the Hopkins team that won the intercollegiate championship.

The summary:

North		South
Ogden, Princeton	G	Hoffecker, Maryland
McEnery, Army	D	Bunting, Hopkins
Spaulding, RPI	D	Nuttle, Maryland
Allner, Princeton	D	Proutt, Virginia
Galloway, Colgate	M	Greene, Hopkins
Nolan, Penn State	M	Smith, Hopkins
Fish, Princeton	M	Schultz, Navy
Gaines, Princeton	A	Tongue, W. & L.
O'Connor, RPI	A	Coulter, Navy
Merryman, Williams	A	Tunstall, Hopkins
	North 2 2 5 2—11	
	South 3 1 1 1—6	

Scoring: *North*—Fish (2), Gaines (2), Barton, O'Connor, Merryman, Nolan, Travis, Beard. *South*—Greene (3), Tongue, Coulter, Tunstall. Substitutions: *North*—goal—Bernard (Harvard); defense—Hill (Hobart), DiLiberti (Rutgers); Midfield—Beard (RPI), Barton (Army), Markes (Union), Travis (Army), Myers (RPI), Collins (Lehigh); attack—Egbert (Army), Larson (Yale). *South*—goal—Clements (W. & L.); defense—Billmire (Duke), Mohler (Loyola); midfield—Herbter (Maryland), Ruppertsberger (Maryland), Hill (W. & L.), Weaver (Kenyon), Hughes (Loyola), Cosinuke (Swarthmore); attack—Andrews (Drexel). Saves: Hoffecker, 16; Ogden, 5; Bernard, 8; Clements, 1. Cleared: North, 16; South, 13. Failed to Clear: North, 5; South, 7. Draw: North, 13; South, 5. Throwins: North, 5; South, 14. Interceptions: North, 19; South, 15. Officials: Charles Ellinger and John Moorehead.