

Lacrosse: Dawson punches ticket to championship game

Mustangs will face Valor Christian for 4A title

By Alissa Noe

For BoCoPreps.com

POSTED: 05/18/2016 09:51:12 PM MDT | UPDATED: 9 MONTHS AGO



Alexander Dawson goalkeeper Chad Dunnell protects the goal from a shot from Mark Reynolds during a CHSAA State semi-final game against Cheyenne Mountain on Wednesday in Lafayette. More photos: BoCoPreps.com Jeremy Papasso/ Staff Photographer May 18, 2016

Photos: Dawson vs Cheyenne Mtn. Boys LAX Semi-Finals

All season long, Dawson School boys' lacrosse has proven it deserves a spot in the 4A state championship. After defeating Cheyenne Mountain 15-6 on Wednesday afternoon in the semifinals, the Mustangs earned a bid to fight for the title on Friday in Denver.

If the Mustangs win on Friday at the Denver Broncos stadium, it will be the school's first lacrosse title.

Their run to Sports Authority Field has come nearly unhindered as they finished their season up to this point with

Senior attacker Jesse Rosenblatt finished the game with five goals, followed by senior midfielder Wyatt Watts and sophomore attacker Hunter Watts, who each added four points with three goals and an assist.

"I think if we continue to play like this, I just couldn't be more excited about our opportunity right now," Dawson coach Peter Devlin said.

Devlin said he believed the key to the team's success all season long boiled down to two things: team chemistry and humility.

"(Chemistry) is everything. It's absolutely everything. That's what championship teams do. It's a brotherhood, it's family, and these guys love each other and trust each other," Devlin said.

"I think (humility) is huge. They're a very well-composed team. We go down by (two) goals today and nobody's scared at all," he added. "I think that has a lot to do with how they conduct themselves."

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During the first quarter, Dawson struggled to get the ball rolling on offense or defense, going down 4-2. At the start of the second, however, the Mustangs kicked it into gear and netted three quick goals to gain their first lead of the matchup, 5-4.

"We switched our ride to a different ride, and I think that helped a lot, but I think the guys just got their jitters out and just started playing like they're capable of," Devlin said of the first second quarter differential.

Throughout the majority of the second, Dawson dominated the possession and pace of the game, scoring eight unanswered goals in all.

At the half, Dawson led 10-4.

Throughout the second half, Dawson continued to control every aspect of the game. By the time the clock struck zero, Dawson won not only the game, but a chance to put its name in the history books.

"It's just sweet, really. It's the way every senior wants to end their high school career, and the fact that I get a chance to do that is awesome," Rosenblatt said. "We're going to go into this game like we have every other one, focusing on our own thing, creating our game plan and strategy based on the opponent."

The Mustangs will move on to the title game on Friday, March 20 to take on Valor Christian at 5 p.m. at Sports Authority Field in Denver.

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Dawson School 15, Cheyenne Mountain 6

At Dawson School

Cheyenne Mountain 4 0 0 2 — 6

Dawson School (17-1) 2 8 2 3 — 15

Goals — Cheyenne Mountain: Jack Clancy 2, Cullen Nordeman 2, Jack Bell, August Johnson; Dawson School: Jesse Rosenblatt 5, Wyatt Watts 3, Hunter Watts 3, Mac Zee 2, Jack Shams, Gavyn Pure.

Assists — Cheyenne Mountain: Jack Bell, Jack Paul; Dawson School: Gavyn Pure 2, Hunter Watts, Wyatt Watts Jack Shams, Jackson Keener, Will Rosenblatt.

Goalies (Min-Goals allowed-Saves) — Cheyenne Mountain:Luke Paige (48:00 - 15 - 17); Dawson School: Chad Dunnell (48:00 - 6 - 6).



Dawson's Jack Shams takes a shot over a swarm of defenders during a Class 4A semifinal game against Cheyenne Mountain on Wednesday in Lafayette. Go to BoCoPreps.com for more photos. (Jeremy Papasso / Staff Photographer)