



Success in Scotland for Senior Lacrosse Team

After four months of hard training and unpredictable weather this past week, the Senior Lacrosse Team travelled to Edinburgh to compete in the Scottish Lacrosse Open, at Loretto School in Musselburgh. The 12 teams entered were split into two pools where the High School would face St George's Harpenden, St George's Edinburgh, Glenalmond, Fettes College, and Queen Margaret's School.

The first match of the day was against regular season competitors, St George's. The girls used their previous game knowledge against St George's to their advantage, taking away as many opportunities as possible and keeping possession of the ball. The score was kept close throughout the 18 minutes and kept tensions high. The High School worked to the last whistle and managed to achieve a draw 3-3.

After a great start, the girls were eager to continue their progress throughout the day. In the next two matches, the girls pulled together and played as a solid unit. The team took St George's Ascot by storm starting with winning 75% of the draws. Transition from the midfield was swift allowing several goals scored by fast breaks leading to a well-deserved win at 8-1.

The High School showed composure throughout midfield and worked even harder in defence in their next game against local school, Fettes College. The defense managed three caused-turnovers and at least four groundballs allowing an easier transition into attack. Laura Wickham placed two goals in the back of the goal with the Izzy Clegg and Ayomide Akin-Agunbide feeding her the assists. Fettes answered back with two goals of their own but were unable to keep up with the High School's determination who took the game 4-2.

In their toughest match of the day coming up next, the High School were going in against Queen Margaret's School with confidence. The defence was put to the test from the first whistle when QMS took the first draw and moved towards goal. Luckily Alex Theochari was ready to direct the defence and made great saves throughout the game. Despite not giving up on either end, the High School's two goals weren't enough to take the win, leading to their first loss of the day with 2-4.

In their last game in the pool, the team faced Glenalmond. Fatigue was setting in. Strength and presence on the field from the High School were crucial to pull out the win necessary to move into the next round. Again, Alex made some great saves, the attack took great risks around the goal and worked together to create the needed shooting opportunities. The High School won 3-2.

After placing second in their pool, beating St George's solely by goal difference, the girls faced Harrogate who placed first in Pool 2 in the semi-final. In a nail-biting match, both teams held their own and finished the match in a draw 3-3. In a sudden-death over-time, it was crucial the girls acted fast and played a solid game. After a few interceptions from both teams, Kate Martin ended the game with a winning goal and a place in the finals.

The final game found the High School in a rematch against Queen Margaret's School. With mere minutes to rehydrate and focus on the new task at hand, the girls pulled together with determination and focus. Tensions were high both on the field and throughout the crowd, which

was filled with QMS fans. The High School proved to be a fully cohesive squad and handled the pressure laid down by QMS. Chloe Philips scored the first goal, sending QMS a message that this would be a different game from before. Evenly matched throughout the field, possession would be the key to a win. QMS caught up quickly with a goal of their own, increasing the pressure even more. In the second half, the girls fought together and made several game-saving plays on defence with Alex Theochari making two saves and Beth Pendock leading the defence in groundballs. QMS gave up several fouls to the High School in desperate attempts to get the ball back in their possession, which led to a second goal being scored by Kate Martin, putting the High School back in the lead. With only minutes left in the match the girls couldn't let up on the pressure and needed to play a strategic possession game. QMS managed to gain possession in the final minutes, shooting and scoring the ball in a fast-break. Luckily, a crease violation caused their goal to be disallowed and the ball was placed back into Alex's stick. The final whistle blew after what seemed 10 minutes, with the High School beating Queen Margaret's 2-1 and taking 1st place in the Lacrosse Scotland's Open Schools' Tournament.