

STATEMENT MADE

Unbeaten Ridge boys lacrosse team edges perennial powerhouse Ridgewood

By HARRY FREZZA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

BERNARDS TWP. — The idea for Ridge High's boys lacrosse team is to approach every one of its 15 regular season games with the same vigor no matter the opponent.

The big spirited home crowd at Lee Field last Saturday night reflected that this particular foe carried a bit more cache than most others. Turns out, the home team carried just a bit more on Easter Sunday eve.

Unbeaten Ridge (9-0) didn't disappoint with a gritty 5-4 triumph over perennial powerhouse Ridgewood. The Maroons (7-2) was ranked third in the state. Ridge was fifth. Ridgewood's other loss was to No. 1 Mountain Lakes.

"This was a good test for us," said Ridge coach Ken Marsh. "It's easy to fall into a false sense of security and think we are better than we are. But to come out and prove it against a top five team..."

Junior Jake Hoffman scored two goals for Ridge and Sean Eversen, Chris Crapanzano and Michael Zima had one apiece. Zima's goal with 33 seconds left in the third period gave Ridge a 4-3 lead it wouldn't surrender.

"We focus on that transition — running up and down the field. Our goal-

ie (senior Connor Hackett) made a lot of good outlet passes with one resulting in a goal," said Marsh.

One of Hackett's long outlet passes connected with Eversen on the fast break with Eversen giving Ridge a 2-0 lead with a minute left in the first period.

Ridge's defense and the play of Hackett were the keys. Hackett made 17 saves and even had an assist on the Eversen goal. He stopped several great Ridgewood looks. Hackett is in his first year of starting, taking over for graduated four-year starter Mike Harris.

"Connor played incredibly in the cage," said Marsh.

The defense in front of him was stout. Marsh mentioned senior Wes Hudkins who shadowed Maroon sniper Will Mollihan, who came into the game with 23 goals and eight assists. Mollihan was limited to a goal and assist.

"Ridgewood is always good. They are always a top five team in New Jersey and for us to beat them...it was a nice team win for us today," said Marsh. "They came here with a good team. We just played a little bit better."

Marsh said it was certainly an important win, but there's much more ahead. Two years ago, the Red Devils beat Ridgewood 12-8 in April at Lee Field.



Photos by Mark Richter

Ridge High School senior goalie Connor Hackett tries to make a stop on an attempt from a diving Ridgewood player on April 20. The Red Devils stayed undefeated at 9-0 following the 5-4 victory.

But the Maroons avenged that loss with an 11-5 state tournament win in May.

"It is just a regular season game, an out-of-conference game, so in terms of anything, it means nothing. It's just a win, but obviously for us it's a big momentum boost," added Marsh. "It's against an extremely good program, they play a great schedule. It gives a good bar of where we are and where we need to go. We still have to get better. We played too much defense today and our defense played great."



Above: Junior Jack Perry clears for Ridge in its game against Ridgewood on April 20. Left: Ridge High School senior Wes Hudkins plays defense against Ridgewood on April 20. The Red Devils prevailed 5-4 and improved to 9-0 on the season.

QUITE A CHALLENGE

Super Crossword

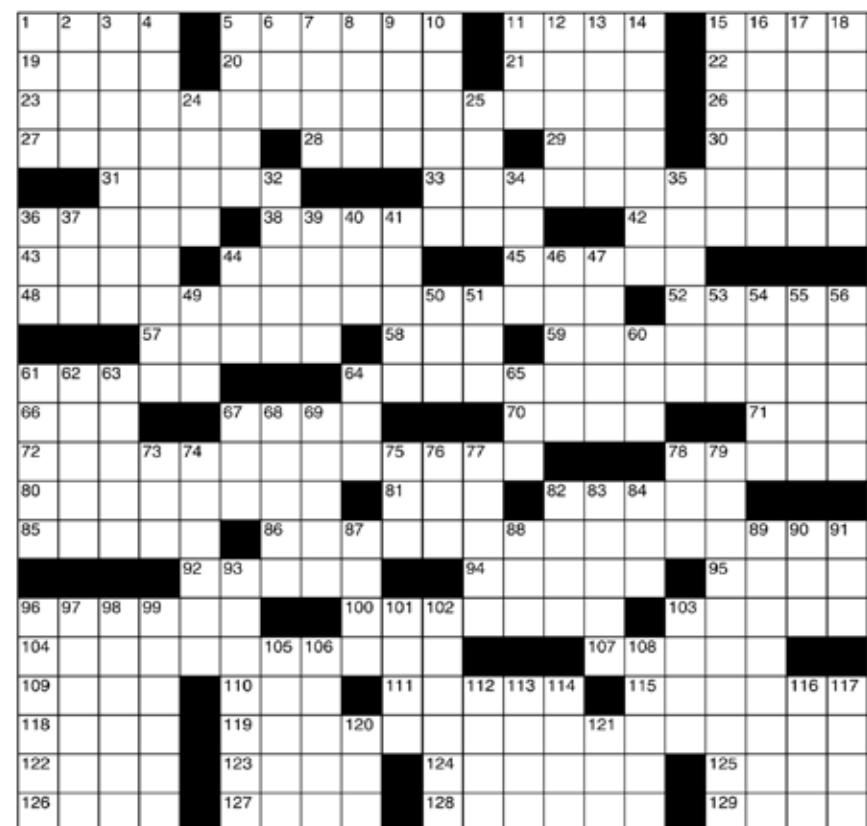
ACROSS

- 1 Pal of Owl
- 5 Gunnysack material
- 11 Deserve
- 15 A-F linkup
- 19 Gillette razor name
- 20 Melodious
- 21 Veer sharply
- 22 Shahs' home
- 23 Competition to determine the best garment stiffener?
- 26 "-- in Boots"
- 27 "See! I was right!"
- 28 Architect Frank
- 29 Omega lead-in
- 30 Morales of "The Brink"
- 31 Web sales
- 33 Virile Communist leader?
- 36 Mason -- Line
- 38 Tree-lined boulevard
- 42 Enter slowly
- 43 Coup d'--
- 44 Carne -- (steak dish)
- 45 Arctic birds
- 48 Heart-shaped pre-euro Greek coin?
- 52 Implied but not stated
- 57 Screwball
- 58 Mad feeling
- 59 Periods of time between
- 61 Like -- in headlights
- 64 Chief foe who doesn't show up on time?
- 66 Ready to go
- 67 Tortilla snack
- 70 "This --" (phone phrase)
- 71 Psyche part
- 72 Method used by learned people?

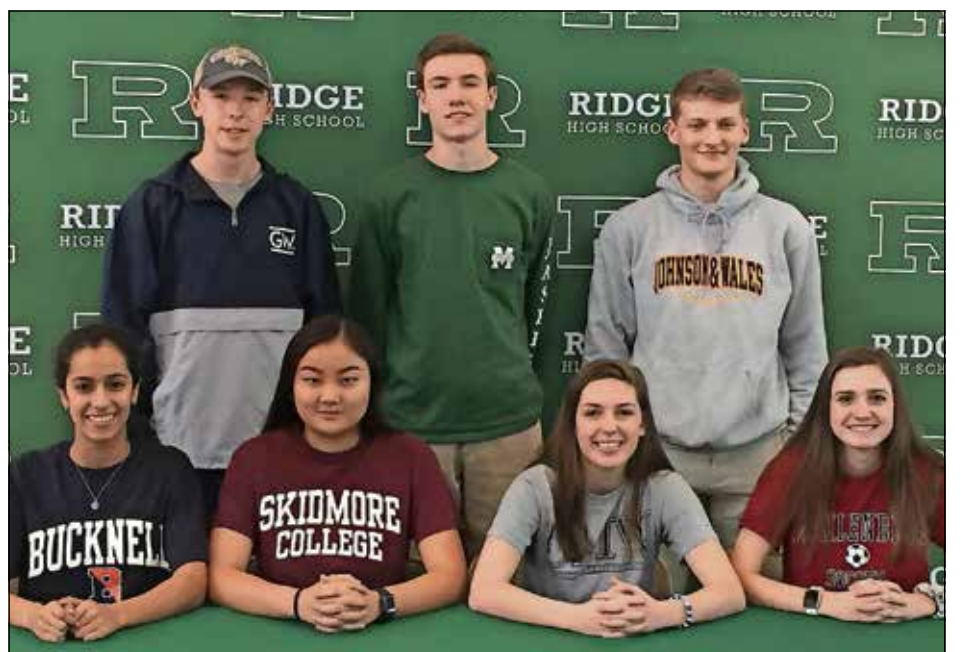
- 78 Four pairs
- 80 "Hill Street Blues" actor Daniel J. --
- 81 That lady
- 82 "How cool!"
- 85 Church assembly
- 86 Warfare that has not been enchanted?
- 92 Amu -- (Asian river)
- 94 Planet's path
- 95 Sport on horseback
- 96 Even, as the score
- 100 Coif creator
- 103 Singer Crystal
- 104 Grayish brown earth tone?
- 107 Branch of Islam
- 109 Similar
- 110 "How cool!"
- 111 "Don't Be Cruel" singer
- 115 Place for a manipedi
- 118 Primo
- 119 Spectator covered in glitter?
- 122 Ball of thread
- 123 -- buco
- 124 Wireless provider acquired by Verizon in 2008
- 125 Vocal range
- 126 Give lip
- 127 East --, Connecticut
- 128 Prickly-leaved plant
- 129 Actor Gosling

- 7 See 91-Down
- 8 Balcony box
- 9 Author Sholem
- 10 Phrase of self-pity
- 11 Vt. hours
- 12 Initial Hebrew letter
- 13 Rene of "Thor"
- 14 Web user
- 15 Two-legged animals
- 16 Defoe hero
- 17 Aquafina or Fiji alternative
- 18 Ship banner
- 24 Blue hue
- 25 Long-distance swimmer Diana
- 32 Type of eye surgery
- 34 Pope's religion: Abbr.
- 35 Spring holiday
- 36 German for 60-Down
- 37 Figure skater
- 39 Full of frills
- 40 Say further
- 41 "Ave --"
- 44 From -- Z (every bit)
- 46 Arab leaders
- 47 Western spread
- 49 Hide-hair connector
- 50 Renoir works
- 51 "Meh" grade
- 53 Actress Graynor
- 54 Spotted cat
- 55 JPEG or GIF
- 56 Letter-shaped opening for a bolt
- 60 Definite article
- 61 Mgrs.' aides
- 62 Speak out against
- 63 Coen of film
- 64 Myrna of film
- 65 Archery need
- 67 Ecu

- 68 Pianist Rubinstein or Schnabel
- 69 2004 CBS spinoff
- 73 Lacto- -- vegetarian
- 74 Young chap
- 75 "Pipe down!"
- 76 Caddy drink
- 77 Actor Flynn with a sword
- 78 Western tribe
- 79 Exec's perk with wheels
- 82 Bird bills
- 83 Fixes up text
- 84 Play a role
- 87 ATM output
- 88 Med. scan
- 89 How young guys behave
- 90 Wholly
- 91 With 7-Down, bit of foot jewelry
- 93 Contents of a spray can
- 96 Hayes and Newton
- 97 Tesla of the Tesla coil
- 98 Dresses with flares
- 99 Realm of MSNBC, e.g.
- 101 Arduous trip
- 102 Reprimand loudly
- 103 Biting fly
- 105 "-- daisy!"
- 106 Deep gap
- 108 Longtime Arizona politician Mo
- 112 Wicked
- 113 "To Live and Die --"
- 114 USAF NCOs
- 116 "Fur Is Dead" org.
- 117 Elvis -- Presley
- 120 Lobster eggs
- 121 Very small



>> PLEASE SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE 12



RIDGE STUDENT-ATHLETES SIGN NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT

Seven Ridge High School student-athletes signed a National Letter of Intent to further their academic and athletic career in college. Front row, from left, are: Noor Knaur — Bucknell University field hockey, Chelsea Winegar — Skidmore College volleyball, Amanda Krest — Mary Washington College soccer and Morgan McCauley — Muhlenberg College soccer. Back row, from left, are: James Glockenmeier — George Washington University track and field, Ryan Lindrud — Manhattan College track and field and Shane Holcomb — Johnson & Wales University volleyball.

PINGRY: Big Blue girls sprint team qualifies for Nationals

FROM PAGE 9

April 15.

Girls Track and Field

The sprint medley relay team of Kierstyn Brown, Lauren Taylor, Ryan Davi and Nicole Vallas (4:07.66) set a meet

record, a new state-best time and qualified for Nationals at the Somerset County Relays on Saturday. Carol Ann Perry (10'6") placed first in pole vault, Grace O'Mara (114'8") placed first in discus and the distance medley relay (Brown, Davi,

Alina Irvine and Vanasse, 12:48) also won gold.

Boys Track and Field

Alex Strasser took sixth in the triple jump (38'4.75") and Ore Shote placed sixth in the shot put (43-7.25) in the Somerset County Relays on Saturday.