

A Day for Play, Team Bonding

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The Ravenscroft lacrosse team took a day off from winter workouts and had some fun on December 7 at the Holiday Showcase 7 v 7 tournament in Chapel Hill. The Ravens sent two teams to the event, with a total of 28 players participating.

“The boys have been working hard this winter, and this is sort of a reward for them,” said Coach Sandy Kapatos. “This event gives them a chance to enjoy the game. They played some lacrosse and bonded with the teammates in a fun environment. At the same time, they had an opportunity to utilize the skills and concepts that we have been working on.

“I thought it was a great day, even though the weather wasn’t the best. We split the guys into two equal teams so that everyone got substantial playing time. It was nice to see the boys sharing the ball with their teammates. Although we have several new faces in the program, everyone looked comfortable and played very well together. I was able to watch the boys from the perspective of a spectator and thoroughly enjoyed the day.”

It was a chilly, and sometimes rainy, day in Chapel Hill, but the Ravens still enjoyed the experience.

“We’ve been practicing, but it was nice to get out and play games,” said junior Stratton Lindenmuth. “It’s not like we were feeling a lot of pressure, so we were able to go out and play and have fun together. It was also fun playing with some of the new guys. You could tell that we had already developed a chemistry, which was good to see.”

“Since we split into two teams, it gave everyone a chance to get a lot of playing time,” added sophomore Eli Tanner. “It was just good to have a stick in your hands, and be in game situations.”

Ravenscroft coaches were not allowed to serve in those roles due to NCISAA rules, so a quartet of recent Raven alums -- Jamie Herakovich (2014), Jimbo Barnes (2015), Kubi Johnson (2015), and Jeremy Bull (2000) -- showed up to lend a hand.



Both teams with Coaches Herakovich and Bull after the final games of the day

"It was great to see the boys, and I appreciate their offering to help by coaching our teams," Kapatos said. "We've gone through a lot over the years, and have shared some memorable experiences together. Now they are off at college so I don't get to see them as often as I would like. I like to believe that the program has meant an awful lot to them, especially since they took the time to help out in the middle of final exams."

While their presence was appreciated, the laid back atmosphere didn't leave a lot of room for coaching.

"They did a good job, but they're mainly just friends with everyone," Tanner said. "They were basically just hanging out and enjoying things."

Following the action on the field, the players and their families convened at the home of Jen and John Newell, newcomers to the program who hosted a post tournament gathering.

"We have a pretty tight knit group, and that was a good way to introduce them to everyone," Lindenmuth said. "We had a good time, and they had a chance to really meet everyone."

"That was a very nice way to end the day," Kapatos said. "We really appreciate the Newell's opening up their home. It was just really nice to have all the families together."