

State Championship

By: James Farrell

It is time to go to the State Championship. My team has the second best record in the state. This upcoming game is the most important thing I have ever done for any sport in my life. Ever since the beginning of the season, I have been waiting for the State Championship. From the Start I had a feeling we were going to make it here. Fox Valley is the only team we have lost to in a Season game. They are our biggest rivals, and they are the team we will be playing in the championship. As we are walk over to the field off of a blowout win over the Penguins in the semi finals, we are hyped up for the State Championship. I can see the parents and fans setting up their chairs on the far sideline of the field we will play on. I can sense that they are excited to watch the game.

I am thinking back to the first tournament we had together at the very beginning of the season. We played Fox Valley and tied them 1-1. That was the first hint that we could have a good play off run this year. I was one of the newbies on a team that had been playing together for years. We had only had a few practices together before the first tournament. I was not getting any playing time at the beginning of the season. By the time of the State Championship, I had proven myself to be a starter.

There is adrenaline pumping through my veins as we gather on the sidelines and get in a tight huddle with our Coaches Zach and Max. "All of the hours spent at practice," Zach screams, "all the effort pushing each other to get better, the couple of hours of sprints I made you guys do, they all have led up to this next hour of lacrosse! I don't want you guys thinking about anything else right now. The only thing on your mind is lacrosse. How can I get open for a shot? How can I take the ball away on defense? These are the types of things you need to be worrying about!" I look around and I see my teammates, this is what we have worked all spring for.

"I'm so excited for this," Max says, "Remember the last time we played Fox Valley and we scored in the last seconds of the game? That image is burned into every

one of their eyes right now." He starts to yell, "This is it! Now take the field and show Fox Valley what we got! Scouts on 3. 1! 2! 3!"

"Scouts!" we all shout at the top of our lungs. I run to my position and I stand waiting in anticipation of the first whistle. My heart beat speeds up as the ref calls the faceoff, "Down, set, TWEEEEEEEEEEET."