

NORTHWEST SPORTS

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ATHLETICS IN NORTHWEST WASHINGTON

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Matt Petros/The Current
In only its second game in existence, the Wilson lacrosse team, which is the only public high school boys team in the city, defeated the Maret junior varsity squad.

Wilson lacrosse notches first win

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Current Correspondent

The Wilson lacrosse team picked up its first win ever Wednesday, downing the Maret junior varsity team, 7-6, in the second game of its inaugural season. Wilson junior Zach Asterbadi provided plenty of heroics in what turned out to be a wild game.

After Maret came all the way back from a 5-0 deficit to capture a late lead, Asterbadi took the ball with just seconds remaining and sent a two-hopper into the back of the net. Midway through the second overtime, he fired another shot into the goal — his fifth score of the game — and Wilson sealed its win.

“We had one second left, so I just took a shot,” Asterbadi said.

Before Asterbadi could notch the winning score in overtime, Wilson goalie Zach Lewton made a tough stop to preserve the tie.

“Zach really stepped up and made some big saves,” said Wilson coach Lucius Polk, a former standout lacrosse player at Notre Dame. “To volunteer to play goalie as a first-year player is a big move. It takes a lot of guts and it takes a lot of commitment to the sport and to our team.”

Polk praised the early-season play of both Lewton and Jordan Thomas, who rotate in the goalkeeper position. Wilson, which has the only public school boys lacrosse team in the District, is playing a club schedule that includes private school junior varsity teams.

After dropping their season opener to St. Albans — the alma mater of Polk and co-coach Harry Alford as well as one of the area’s top programs — the Tigers felt better about their chances against Maret.

“Last time was our first game after we just got together and started playing. [This time] it’s a really good feeling,” said Evan Holly, one of many Wilson players who are new to the sport.

“The improvement is drastic when you look at a bunch of kids who have never played lacrosse before. They have played a lot of other sports — they’re good, natural athletes — so they’re going to improve a lot in the beginning couple of months,” said Polk. “They’re getting their individual skills under control and they need to start working on the team aspect and understanding the flow of the game. Once we can put that together, I think we’re going to see a lot more success.”

Asterbadi is perhaps the team’s most experienced player. See **Wilson**/Page 14

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er. He said he’s been playing for about five years, including a stint

at Flint Hill before transferring to Wilson for this school year.

Now he’s doing whatever he can to lead the team, including coming through in the clutch when he was clearly winded after playing much

of the long game against Maret.

Alford said the last time he saw

a buzzer-beater in lacrosse was when Polk scored against Good Counsel when the two were playing together at St. Albans.