

National

BOYS' PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Devin Dwyer | GARDEN CITY (N.Y.)

Devin Dwyer celebrated his high school graduation by doing something unusual — at least by his standards. He jetted off to the Dominican Republic with friends and parents for an overdue vacation. "I haven't taken a vacation since I was like 7, so I'm pretty pumped for this," he said before he left.

For the past several years, Dwyer barely has had time for a nap, let alone a vacation. In addition to his spectacular career on the lacrosse field, where he most recently tallied 39 goals and 75 assists for national No. 1-ranked Garden City (N.Y.), Dwyer also played football and basketball.

Dwyer's mother, Eileen, said he is a business-first guy who likes to get his work out of the way before cajoling with friends.

"It's a little bit easier to stay organized when you're busy," she said. "If they're not playing their sports, they're sitting in front of an Xbox or something."

One winter, Dwyer considered dropping basketball in favor of an enhanced weight lifting regimen. It didn't take.

"After a day, I realized I wouldn't know what to do if I wasn't playing," Dwyer said. "There was no way I could give it up."

Dwyer's love for sports runs deep, stemming from his days chasing two older brothers and sister around athletic fields. All three siblings played lacrosse for Garden City, with his sister taking home a state title and one of his brothers earning All-County honors. Devin, the Trojans' career assists leader, will take his talents to Harvard this fall.

Dwyer's love for lacrosse also might stem from his days as Garden City's water boy when his father, Doug, coached the Trojans. "He saw the halftime speeches," Doug Dwyer said. "He saw how cool it was being a varsity lacrosse player and winning state championships. Maybe that lit a fire."

But Doug Dwyer decided to let that fire burn on its own. He resigned several years ago to avoid coaching his sons.

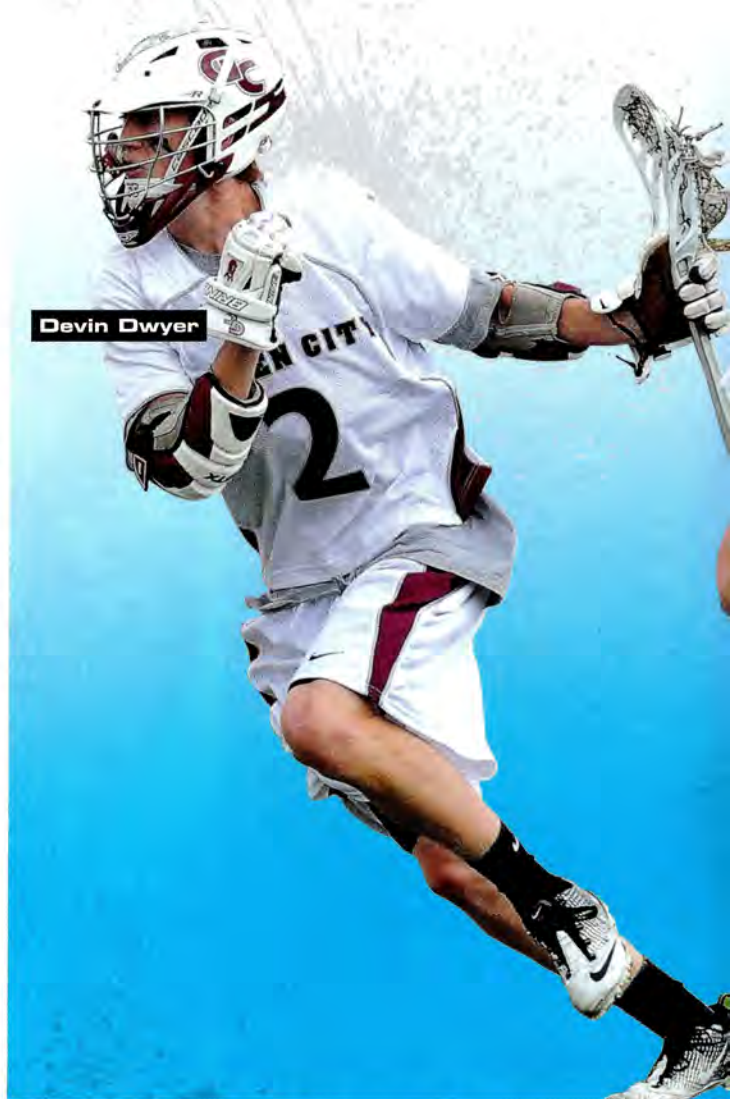
"Garden City is high pressure, and if I played my kid over somebody else's kid, I'd be in for murder," he said. "It's pretty serious. Some towns, it's football. Some towns, it's basketball. This town, it's lacrosse."

Devin Dwyer has always been a pass-first player. If his brother would score six goals, he would come home with eight assists. Same thing in basketball, where he excelled as a point guard.

Dwyer also picked up the bagpipes when he was in seventh grade. Much like baseball, which the former shortstop and pitcher regards as a weak spot, the bagpipes taught Dwyer the art of failure. "There are so many times where you just want to take them and slam them on the ground because you mess up so much," he said. "It teaches you patience and failure, and that everything takes practice."

Overall, Dwyer's career has been marked far more by success than by failure, a fact his former high school coach noted.

"Devin is just a playmaker," Garden City coach Steve Finnell said, "someone who makes everyone else better around him. In our biggest games this year, he raised his play to a higher level."
— *Jonah Rosenblum*



BOYS' TOP 25

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|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Garden City (N.Y.) 22-0 | 16. Irondequoit (N.Y.) 19-3 |
| 2. Calvert Hall College (Md.) 16-2 | 17. Niskayuna (N.Y.) 20-2 |
| 3. Gonzaga (D.C.) 20-1 | 18. Gilman School (Md.) 12-4 |
| 4. Bridgewater-Raritan (N.J.) 21-0 | 19. Landon School (Md.) 13-6 |
| 5. West Islip (N.Y.) 22-1 | 20. La Salle College (Pa.) 20-5 |
| 6. Haverford School (Pa.) 21-2 | 21. Salisbury School (Conn.) 12-1 |
| 7. Conestoga (Pa.) 23-3 | 22. Culver Military Academy (Ind.) 18-3 |
| 8. St. Anthony's (N.Y.) 16-3 | 23. St. Andrew's School (Fla.) 23-2 |
| 9. Chaminade (N.Y.) 16-2 | 24. Arapahoe (Colo.) 19-0 24 |
| 10. Duxbury (Mass.) 23-2 | 25. Darien (Conn.) 20-2 |
| 11. Ithaca (N.Y.) 18-2 | |
| 12. Fairport (N.Y.) 20-1 | |
| 13. La Costa Canyon (Calif.) 22-1 | |
| 14. Episcopal Academy (Pa.) 18-5 | |
| 15. Loyola Blakefield (Md.) 16-4 | |

Also considered (alphabetical order): Boys' Latin (Md.), Brother Rice (Mich.), Bullis (Md.), Deerfield Academy (Mass.), Dublin Jerome (Ohio), Georgetown Prep (Md.), Jamesville-DeWitt (N.Y.), Liverpool (N.Y.), Manhasset (N.Y.), New Canaan (Conn.), Smithtown West (N.Y.), The Governor's Academy (Mass.), Upper Arlington (Ohio), Ward Melville (N.Y.), West Genesee (N.Y.)

Northeast

By Jonah Rosenblum

BOYS' PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Devin Dwyer | GARDEN CITY (N.Y.)

Garden City coach Steve Finnell recalls one play in vivid detail from his team's 10-5 victory April 21 over Duxbury (Mass.). Senior attackman Devin Dwyer picked up the ball on a restart and flung it 40 yards down the field to a sprinting Liam Kennedy, who capped off the play with a goal.

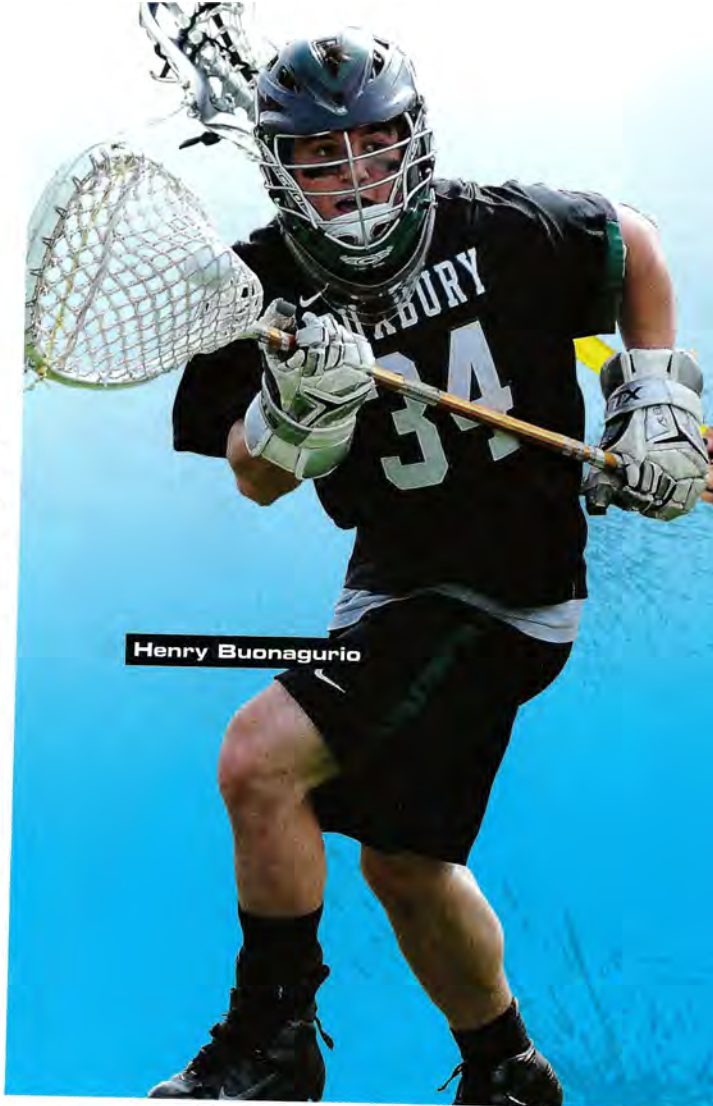
"It was one of those plays where I turned to our assistant coaches and said, 'He's the only one who could make that pass,'" Finnell said. "It's like throwing a fade pattern in football where the only person that could have caught it was Liam."

While not all of his 75 assists came in such spectacular fashion, passes like those made Dwyer stand out during his spectacular career at Garden City.

"Devin is just a playmaker," Finnell said. "He makes it look so easy, finding people's sticks whether they're open by three yards or three inches. He's a special one."

Dwyer, who will play at Harvard, graduated from Garden City as the program's career leader with 217 assists. But he's more than just a feeder. After playing his first season of high school lacrosse "probably at 100 pounds," Dwyer added weight to become even more dangerous.

"His junior year, he put on some size and now he is able to attack the cage more," Finnell said. "He can shoot the lights out of the ball — righty, lefty, it doesn't really matter."



Henry Buonagurio

GIRLS' PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Alexandra Bruno | GARDEN CITY (N.Y.)

Alexandra Bruno was good to the last drop.

No matter how many defenders marked Garden City's senior attacker, Bruno continued to get to the cage and finished the season with 93 goals.

"We definitely tried to mark off as well as we could, and she just will keep going," Wantagh coach Bobbi Colavita said. "You can put one person on her or two people on her, and she's going to still try to get that goal any way she can."

Bruno scored six goals and added two assists in Garden City's 13-8 victory over Canandaigua to seal the Trojans' seventh straight Class B state title.

"She just did everything she needed to do to make it happen," Garden City coach Diane Chapman said. "The stronger teams we played in the past, people tried to lock her off and she still has scored anywhere from four to six goals per game, and that's the type of player that she is."

While Bruno, a Princeton recruit, clearly excels at shooting, she also led the Trojans with 41 assists.

"Most players lead in one category and not in both," Chapman said. "She sees the game incredibly well, works incredibly hard and just is able to shoot equally strong with her right and left hand."

BOYS' TOP 10

1. Garden City (N.Y.) 22-0

→ Garden City broke through to win the Class B state title after losing in the final the previous two seasons. The Trojans capped an undefeated season in dominant fashion. Each of their last four wins came by at least seven goals, including an 11-4 victory over Irondequoit in the state final. National Player of the Year **Devin Dwyer** (39g, 75a) will play at Harvard. Virginia-bound goalie **Dan Marino** (134 saves) was stout between the pipes.

2. West Islip (N.Y.) 21-1

→ West Islip won its fifth Class A state title in the last seven years and ended the season on a 19-game winning streak. Seniors **Tom Moore** (60g, 24a) and **Brendan Smith** (55g, 17a) are headed to Denver and Marquette, respectively. **Nick Aponte** (Penn State) had three goals and four assists in a 12-7 win over Ithaca in the final.

3. St. Anthony's (N.Y.) 16-3

→ St. Anthony's secured its fifth straight CHSAA title with an 8-6 win over Chaminade after losing twice earlier to the Flyers. Harvard-bound **Sean McDonagh** (39g, 25a) and North Carolina-bound **Brian Sherlock** (39g, 10a) paced the offense, while longstick **Timothy Stackpole** (Army) and goalie **Kieran Burke** (UNC) led a top defense.

4. Chaminade (N.Y.) 16-2

→ Chaminade had a better record than St. Anthony's and beat the Friars twice, but it could not win the contest that mattered most. The Flyers fell to the Friars in the CHSAA championship game for the second straight year. Leading scorers **Ryan Lukacovic** (34g, 28a) and **Tommy Zenker** (33g, 8a), along with star goalie **Danny Fowler** (145 saves), will return in 2013.

5. Irondequoit (N.Y.) 19-3

→ Another season, another playoff loss to the eventual state champ. Irondequoit, eliminated in the last three semifinals, reached the Class B championship game this time before losing to Garden City. Leading scorer **Nick Doktor** (43g, 26a), who missed four weeks with a separated shoulder, moves on to Penn as part of a 15-man graduating class.

6. Duxbury (Mass.) 23-2

→ The Dragons won their second straight Division I state title with a 10-8 victory over Needham. Duxbury boasted wins over New York powers Jamesville-DeWitt and Niskayuna. Goalie **Henry Buonagurio** (Drexel) and defenseman **Matt O'Keefe** (Johns Hopkins) led a defense that surrendered just 4.4 goals per game. Attackman **Seamus Connelly** (Duke) paced the offense.