

HIGH-SCHOOL

TEAMS OF THE DECADE: 2019 Ponte Vedra boys lacrosse



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BOYS LACROSSE

2019 Ponte Vedra

Record: 24-1.

Achievements: Won FHSAA boys lacrosse championship; ranked second in the South in Nike/US Lacrosse rankings.

Top players: A Patrick Dotsikas, M Dylan Hess, M Carter Parlette, D Maximus Schalit

Why they're here: It's pretty simple: The Sharks wiped out every Florida opponent in their path. Ponte Vedra won every game except one, and that was an 11-6 out-of-state loss to a Lambert (Ga.) team then ranked as the best in the Southeast. After that, the Sharks won their 17 remaining games and finished the season with a goal differential of 378 scored to 119 allowed. Dylan Hess led the bombardment with 58 goals and 53 assists, Patrick Dotsikas added 54 goals and 21 assists of his own, Carter Parlette scored 44 goals and 46 assists and Maximus Schalit — named Florida Dairy Farmers Mr. Lacrosse — and Tommy Zitiello led a tough defensive corps. Ponte Vedra was dominant at faceoffs as well, with Jimmy Burns winning 74 percent of faceoffs entering the final. Ponte Vedra college lacrosse signees included Freddie Amato (Lehigh), Burns (UMass-Lowell), Dotsikas (Merchant Marine), Jack Dowd (Furman), Hess (Georgetown), Finn Larkin (St. Michael's), Parlette (Notre Dame), Schalit (Notre Dame), Davis Smith (Utah), Matayo Trumble (Merchant Marine) and Cam Welch (Mercer), while Zitiello and Aidan Dunigan earned college chances in football and 2019 sophomores Freddie DiMarzo and Joe

Taraboletti are committed to Utah and Denver, respectively. No Florida team managed to stay within eight goals of Ponte Vedra until Bishop Moore and Oxbridge Academy in April; the Sharks held off a Jupiter rally and then crushed St. Thomas Aquinas after halftime in a running-clock 19-7 championship game. "We would've beat most college teams that night, that's how on fire we were," head coach Tom West said.

They said it: "We had excellent players everywhere. That year we had some of the best in every position — the best goalies, the best defensemen, the best midfielders and attackers — and they all played as a team, just played for each other." — West.