

# Daily Herald

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## St. Charles headed to state semifinals

**By Henry Perez**  
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Posted Sunday, May 27, 2007

A little bit of rain isn't going to have much of an impact on a bunch of guys who make a habit of beating each other up with metal sticks.

St Charles' boys lacrosse team did not get much of a challenge, either from the steady showers that hung around the entire afternoon, or their opponents from Barrington in their Saturday state quarterfinal match at the East Side Sports Complex.

St. Charles defeated Barrington 12-3, moving them into a semifinal Wednesday at New Trier.

"We were prepared for this because the last two big games we've had were also in pouring rain," St. Charles coach Andy Thompson said. "It seems to bring some good luck for us."

St. Charles (16-1) put 4 goals in the books before some folks had time to open their umbrellas, as Ben Dvorak got the scoring started in the opening minutes.

"We had to keep the offense going," Dvorak said. "I realized their defense was pretty lax, so I knew if I cut through I'd be open."

After Conor Hamilton fired in the first of his 4 goals, Dvorak scored again to give St. Charles a 3-0 lead.

"Once I realized that everything was open, I kept taking opportunities," Dvorak said.

Dylan Ward, Sean Brogan and Thomas Felcco broke into the scoring column as St. Charles carried an 8-2 lead into the break.

Trying to build on second quarter goals by Evan Procus and Ben Bernado, Barrington turned up the intensity at the start of the third quarter. Though the Broncos (10-8) spent much of the second half peppering the goal, St. Charles keeper Sean McGushin was up to the challenge.

"They came out with a lot of shots, just like we did in the first quarter," McGushin said.

McGushin recorded 9 saves in the game.

One of the afternoon's most memorable goals came midway through the third quarter as St. Charles defenseman Madden Titus took it all the way down the left sideline for the score.

"I thought a couple of our attackers would get open, but once I got past the midfield line I saw it was just me and the goalie," Titus said.

In lacrosse, it's rare for a defenseman to get an opportunity to score, and Titus made the

most of his.

"That was first time in my entire career that I've had an open look at the goal like that, so I was pretty excited," Titus said.

C.J. Nemecek also broke into the scoring column in the second half, as St. Charles cruised into Wednesday's semifinal.

The team's success is especially sweet for Thompson, who has coached many of these players since they were first starting out.

"I started with this year's seniors when they were freshmen, so this is a really special situation," he said. "To see their progression from when they were little kids to now that they're young men is a really cool thing."

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