

2009 Columbia Varsity Boys' Lacrosse

Team Accomplishments

- For the second year in a row, the team finished in 2nd place in the Suburban Council Gold Division with an 11-7 record. This is the fourth year in a row the team has posted a winning record (the last time this happened was in 1994) and placed 2nd or higher in the division. The last time this happened was in 1986 when they won their only Section II Championship.
- The Blue Devils were the recipient of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Scholar/Athlete Team Award for having a combined team grade point average of 90 or above. This is quite an accomplishment, and something that players, parents, coaches, the school and the community should all be proud of.
- Columbia was awarded the 2009 Suburban Scholastic Council Sportsmanship Award. Much credit goes to the tireless efforts of our booster parents (this year, Maryann Gavitt and Elin Lockrow in particular), who continued our now four-year practice of providing a free hot dog and soda to the officials and to players, coaches and scorekeepers of both teams following every home game, and a Gatorade or bottle of water to the officials and scorekeepers at halftime. (Click [here](#) to read more on this in the *Greenbush Life*.)

But all 2009 players and parents share the award - players for their hard but clean and fair play, and parents for the positive behavior exhibited at all games, whether home or away. Many positive comments about our parents were received throughout the season from opposing parents (and players!) Our school and our community can and should be very proud of the manner in which they were represented by Blue Devils players and parents.

- The 2009 Blue Devils are one of only two Section II teams (the other being Guilderland) to have accomplished the following:
 - 5 players with 22 or more goals
 - 5 players with 26 or more points

- On April 25th Kyle Breen and Ryan Kelly combined for 13 saves and the defense posted one of its best efforts of the year as Columbia defeated Scotia 13-0 en route to posting only the 7th shutout in Columbia history.
- On April 28th Columbia staged what is believed to be the greatest comeback in program history. Led by Casey Balzer's 5 goals and 4 assists, the Blue Devils scored 11 unanswered goals against the Blue Streaks in Saratoga to turn an 8-3 deficit into a 14-8 victory. Click [here](#) to read what *The Record* had to say, and [here](#) to see what was written in *The Saratogian*.

Individual Accomplishments

- Three (3) new Columbia Boys' Lacrosse records were set:
 - Most Career Goals - 123 - Casey Balzer
 - Most Career Assists - 131 - Casey Balzer
 - Most Career Points - 254 - Casey Balzer

Casey departs the program as the holder of six (6) club records.
- Casey Balzer has been awarded a partial scholarship to play Division II Lacrosse for the Mercy College Mavericks in Dobbs Ferry, NY.
- Casey Balzer was named a "2009 Player to Watch" by both the *Times Union* (click [here](#) to view the article) and *The Record*. In only his junior year, Casey led the Suburban Council with 93 points and all of Section II with 50 assists, both of which are Columbia High School Lacrosse records.
- Casey Balzer was named a Suburban Council 2nd Team All-Star, a *Times Union* 1st Team All-Star (click [here](#) to view the article), and a 1st Team selection to *The Record* All-Area Lacrosse Team (click [here](#) to view the article).
- Columbia was well-represented in the 2009 Section II Select Seniors Game at UAlbany's Fallon Field on June 12th. Goalie Kyle Breen led all goalies with 6 saves (3 from point blank range), and David Dickie's strong defense coupled with Casey Balzer's 3 goals and 1 assist helped power the South past the North by a score of 16-7.
- Click [here](#) to view this year's list of varsity banquet award recipients.

Turf Trivia

- **Jon Gavitt scored the first regular season lacrosse goal on the turf field, Tim Lockrow had the first assist, and Kyle Breen the first save.**