

## Lacrosse is an instant hit

By Carl Lukat  
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The NoVa West Lacrosse organization was formed this summer to allow players from the western portion of Northern Virginia to hone their lacrosse skills.

Coached by Notre Dame Academy head boys' lacrosse coach Rob Horne, NoVa West is made up of his players at Notre Dame, along with players from Chantilly, Dominion, Heritage, Liberty, Loudoun Valley, Potomac Falls and Wakefield.



*NoVa West Lacrosse Team After Hot Shots Tournament in Salisbury MD*

"Our primary objective with starting NoVa West was to allow student-athletes greater exposure to college coaches," stated Horne. "These summer tournaments are invaluable for college coaches."

The newly formed squad played two tournaments in front of college coaches, and also played local teams, such as Piedmont Lacrosse, Virginia Travel and South Lakes. NoVa West's final record in its inaugural season was 9-7, including a 10th-place finish in the 36-team FCA Outback Challenge in Annapolis, Md.

"I think we had a very successful first season," continued Horne. "The group of students we collected were great young men. They were able to absorb a lot of information and they are all great athletes."

Devin Pinkston (Notre Dame) led the squad offensively this summer with 29 goals and 24 assists. Brian MacMahon (Notre Dame) notched 25 goals, Ryan Verfurth (Notre Dame) added 16 and Justin Ong (Potomac Falls) tallied 13 goals.

Brian Rabung (Loudoun Valley) scooped up a team-best 55 ground balls, and goalie Steven Ide (Notre Dame) made 78 saves.

"It is always fun to play with new guys," said Devin Pinkston, a rising junior. "The competition was really good, which challenged me to play better. I get to be coached by coach Horne all year, which makes me better."

After its positive first season, the program plans to blossom in 2006. NoVa West has already been booked into the STX Shootout in Baltimore, Md., and the Hotbeds tournament in Delaware.

"I had a great time coaching this team," said Horne. "It's a real nice chance to see talent throughout the county. I thought it was a great experience and I look forward to next summer."

The squad will hold tryouts next June for the 2006 summer season. For more information, visit <http://www.novawestlax.com>.

