

Schools

Rich tradition in good hands

Concord-Carlisle lacrosse passed on to Boynton - and he passes test

By H.J. Schacter
SPECIAL TO THE GLOBE

There had been only two boys' lacrosse coaches at Concord-Carlisle prior to this season. The first, Jim McClellan, is considered the grandfather of Massachusetts high school lacrosse. The second was Dick Kerr, who never had a losing season in seven years and won nearly 82 percent of his games. Both are legends.

Last year, Kerr announced he was going to step down and recommended Nick Boynton, a former player. Boynton was eager to interview for the job, but with only one year as an assistant to Kerr on his coaching resume, he felt he didn't have much to offer except enthusiasm.

Boynton's first season was a tough one by Concord standards. His team finished 3-7 and saw its season end Saturday after a 15-4 loss to Lincoln-Sudbury in the first round of the EMass tournament. However, considering his young and inexperienced team, many consider Boynton's inaugural season a success.

"One of the first questions [athletic director Brent Clark] asked me in the interview was, 'Why should I take you over a lot of the college assistants that applied?'" said Boynton, 23. "The Concord job is one of the top lacrosse jobs in the state and I really didn't know what to say. All I could think of was, 'Because I love Concord.'"

That was good enough for Clark.

Boynton was a star at Concord-Carlisle from 1988 to 1987. He was a Globe All-Scholastic and an All-American his senior year, leading C-C to the state title. Boynton then played with the Galt brothers (Paul and Gary) at Syracuse, helping the Orangemen capture three consecutive national championships.

"He has played with the best of them and knows what it takes to reach the highest level," said Kerr. "The kids respect him and look up to him. I'm convinced he will do a good job."

Boynton graduated from Syracuse in 1992 with a degree in psychology and works with his father at a private real estate firm in Concord. He looks forward to practice every day so he can teach his players new skills and learn more about coaching.

Kerr planned to retire prior to last season, but wouldn't step down until he found somebody who he felt could carry on the tradition. Kerr knew Boynton lived in the area and asked him to be an assistant coach. Concord-Carlisle didn't have any money allocated for an assistant so Kerr raised the money himself.

"Nick just has a tremendous love for the game and it rubs off on the players," said Kerr. "He comes to practice with enthusiasm and is dedicated to building the program. We are very lucky to have him."

Kerr took over as football coach three years ago and found juggling two sports was just too tough.

He explained to Boynton the level of dedication it would take to maintain the consistency Concord-Carlisle had achieved over the last 15 years.

Boynton didn't back down.

"Even when Concord has a bad year it is one of the top two or three teams in the state," said Boynton. "It is probably the most popular sport in the school, and success is expected every year."

Boynton said as a player he was something of a free spirit, someone who didn't always get along with coaches. He is quickly learning the difficulties of coaching. But luckily McClellan and Kerr still teach at the school and are quick to offer advice.

"I am still learning and I have a lot to learn," said Boynton. "I was able to learn how to play the game pretty well and now I'm ready to learn how to be a good coach. [Kerr and McClellan] have been very helpful. I go to them every day and talk about the team."

Boynton and his family are very involved at Concord-Carlisle. His brother

Matt is a senior there and his sister Emily, a sophomore, is a three-sport standout.

"I think my mother comes to more games since I've been coaching than she did when I was a player," said Boynton. "I know most of the kids I coach through my brother."

One of the hardest things for Boynton this season was being tough with his players. Last year, Boynton would joke around with the players, but this year he has had to work them hard, make them run and yell at them.

"Most of my players don't call me coach, they call me Nick," said Boynton. "I'm not the type of guy who likes to yell and scream, but I've had to be really stern at times. I lost my voice a couple of times, but the kids know they are going to have to work extra hard to keep winning."

One of Boynton's main tasks this year was to establish a youth program. He helped start a middle school team and likes working with younger players. People respect Boynton, who now plays for the Top Gun Outlaws in the United States Club Lacrosse Association.

"I have found out that coaching here is much more than just coaching," said Boynton. "It is about fund-raises and clinics and becoming involved in the youth program. It's the little things like collecting user fees and dealing with equipment that really drain you."

Boynton had some doubts at the beginning of the season. *What am I doing? Can I really do this? The pressure. The tradition. The program.* These thoughts went through his head, but Boynton never considered quitting.

"I thought about the program a lot," he said. "I know it's going to take a lot of work, but I'm willing to put in my time and work as hard as I can. The way I look at it we should win at least 75 percent of our games. We'll use that as a starting point."

The program - and tradition - is in good hands.

WEST			
	W-L	W-L	
Lincoln-Sudbury	7-0	Wayland	3-3
Newton South	4-3	Acton-Boxboro	2-4
Concord-Carlisle	3-3	Wellesley	2-6

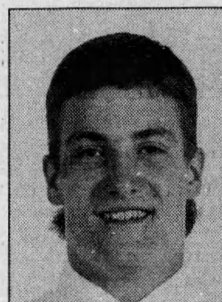
LEADING SCORERS

Nate Glowaki, C-C, 43-24-77; Bob Kaplan, L-S, 25-35-60; Dillon DePeter, L-S, 23-27-50; Nick Goldman, Newton South, 25-18-43; Jon Grant, L-S, 25-17-42.

1994

Nate Glowaki /Concord-Carlisle

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Playing in his first season, Glowaki quickly rose to the top and became the state's leading scorer. He scored 50 goals and dished out 30 assists. The 5-9, 150-pounder is a good all-around athlete. He played baseball for three years and was captain of the wrestling and football teams. Glowaki's brother Brad was a Globe All-Scholastic and an

All-American in lacrosse in 1991. He holds 3.1 GPA and will attend Delaware