

Dear LAX Families,

Well, here we go! At least for one week before we all take a little Spring break. I know I have shared with many of you that the spring sports schedule is not very convenient. The kids work really hard for two weeks (which really isn't enough time) and then we have to get at least two games in before spring break or it is mathematically impossible to get all our games in. I guess the good news is, it's a bad schedule for everyone and we are all in the same boat. It could be worse - some teams have already played a game.

I always like to bring our season, and especially our team, into perspective before we start a new season. Especially for parents of new players, there is a HUGE learning curve this first week of games. Keep in mind, these kids have not even stepped onto a field with lines! These boys have been practicing in the dirt and as I sat there on Friday watching practice, there were several instances where I saw players try to scoop a ball and all they came up with was a pile of sand - that most times ended up in someone's face! There are a lot of little things these boys are going to have to learn on the fly: substituting in and out of the box in the middle of a play, not stepping in (or crossing through) the crease, that mental clock of how much time there is to get the ball across mid-field and then again to get it into the box. These are all things the practice time has just not allowed coach Ruben to get to get with players coming in with little to no experience. Finally, keep in mind we do not have a JV team where this learning curve takes place. We are freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors who very well might be going up against juniors and seniors. So it might get a little ugly at the first couple of games, but I promise it gets better. Whether a player is on the field or standing on the sideline, there is a lot that can be learned by watching and listening to what is going on all around them.

As we get into our schedule of games, I will make sure the web page is updated for the upcoming week. This week we are at Bishop Foley on Tuesday and at Stevenson on Thursday. The "Fromm bus" will leave Tuesday at 5:00 from the Utica High parking lot. First priority goes to underclassman that can't drive and anyone can meet there to

carpool over to the field. The address, and a map to the school, are on the website. Once I arrive, I will Remind text everyone if there are any last minute announcements.

We are getting very close on paperwork and payments, but we are not quite there yet. Please check the attached spreadsheet to make sure your child is all set before Tuesday's game.

There is also an attachment for the Utica Sports Booster's upcoming euchre party on Friday, April 13th. Please let me know if you would like to purchase tickets. Speaking from past experience, this is a great night of fun and an excellent way for the lacrosse team to be an active part of the sports booster community.

I am also attaching this year's apparel order one last time. Please remember these are due this **Wednesday** so that we can have our gear when we get back from spring break.

Black game shorts have been ordered for those players that do not have them. Until they come in, players should just wear black shorts.

Rosters are attached to this email for you to print as I don't know if Bishop Foley will have them for you at the gate. They can also be found on the front page of the website. PLEASE check these over and let me know if I have any errors on name spellings or jersey numbers.