

Inside Lacrosse Magazine – September 2007 Issue
 # 7 Nationally Ranked High School Player



Ryan Young

Position: Attack Height: 6-0 Weight: 170 lbs.
 High School: Manhasset (N.Y.) College: Maryland

By Chris Vaccaro

Coming out of Long Island's Manhasset High, Ryan Young could easily be compared to NBA star Dwayne Wade. The Maryland Terrapin is flashy but modest, quick and elusive, is willing to learn and teach and goes about his game like he's an ambassador for the sport.

He's been this good for quite some time as well. Young scored five goals and had three assists in his first varsity game as a senior at Chamainade.

Loyola and Johns Hopkins showed interest, as did North Carolina, but Young knows his role could be significant with a talented incoming class at Maryland. Terps coach Dave Cottle says Young has a chance to help Maryland right away, since they can use some help at attack, especially someone who can shoot and dodge to

pressure defenses. Cottle was drawn to Young's field vision and unselfishness and recognizes that other guys want to play with him.

"The kids loved him when he came for a visit," Cottle says. "They're still talking about him."

Says Manhasset coach Bill Cherry: "He can do everything." Young's choice of Maryland over Duke might have surprised some, since his older brother Mike is a senior at Duke and Ryan's twin brother Kevin, a touted recruit in his own right, chose the Blue Devils. Ryan admits he thought about playing with both brothers at Duke, but he says that Maryland was a better fit academically, socially and on the field.

While a myriad of college memories await the Young twins, the moment when Kevin passed to Ryan, who scored with less than a minute remaining in the 2006 Catholic League title game against St. Anthony's, will forever be etched in Long Island high school sports lore.

Playing against each other in college might be difficult, but Young should be prepared. When he learned that his grades didn't meet Chamainade's academic criteria after his junior year, he transferred to Manhasset, his hometown. Since Chamainade's standards are much higher (few yrs are failing) and Young was concentrating on the Empire State Games at the time of his finals during his junior season, it may have been the only time when sports took a front seat to academics in his life.

He had to leave Kevin, Chamainade coach Jack Moran and the Flyers behind, but he went with everything else Ryan seems to do, it worked out for the best.

"It hurts," says Ryan, a 2007 Under Armour All-America that was named All-Catholic League and won a Gold Medal at the Empire State Games with Team Long Island during his junior year. "I had such great relation-

ships with everyone. It was an easy switch though, because I live there."

It hurt Kevin too.

"We've been playing together since we're five years old," Kevin says. "It was weird at first but I got over it and we both played well. I was happy for him."

"For us, forget the fact that he is one of the best kids on Long Island, not having him as a person was a blow," says Moran.

Young recorded 99 goals, 45 assists and 42 ground balls for Manhasset as the team's offensive quarterback with 11 assists against Connecticut powerhouse Danford and leader, teaching everyone around him new things every day.

"He's a cut above everybody," Cherry says. "We've had some great players, but he's that next step."

Cherry recalls seeing Young jet around the cage to score in one of their early scrimmages and the crowd was stunned: "Everyone was like, 'What just happened?'"

Young says he idolizes Mike Powell and Matt Danowski for their ability to control games.

Another hero for Young is former Chamainade and Duke middle Jimmy Regan, who died in Iraq while fighting with the U.S. Army. Young wore Regan's No. 19 jersey at the funeral in February.

"Seeing Ryan in [Regan's] No. 19 Chamainade jersey with the American flag, wrestling above is something I'll never forget," Moran says. "It gives me chills thinking about it."

IMMEDIATE IMPACT: Expect Young to challenge for a starting attack spot right away. The Terps bring in a host of offensive talent, so this group could make a difference immediately.

Photo by James Schaffer

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