

SPORTS WEEK



Staff Photo by Robert Ward

Joakim Ryan of CBA (right) goes up against Matt Gilbertson of Rumson-Fair Haven during a boys high school lacrosse game.

NJSIAA to use money to balance

By **STEVEN FALK**
Staff Writer

ROBBINSVILLE — About \$900,000 of the NJSIAA's \$1.2 million surplus will be placed into its 2010-2011 budget, NJSIAA Executive Director Steve Timko said Wednesday at the association's monthly executive committee meeting.

"In order to balance the budget, I have to take money out of the surplus," Timko said.

Members of the executive committee were handed a copy of the association's proposed budget for 2010-2011 as they left the meeting, and they will vote on the budget in June.

Timko would not discuss in great depth what was in the budget.

But, some cuts became known Wednesday.

Executive committee meetings in December and March will be eliminated next year on a one-year trial basis.

It was also announced NJSIAA rules interpreters will no longer attend National Federation meetings. The association's annual season-ending golf outing will not be held this year.

"We've made cuts internally, operational-wise," Timko said.

Timko would not rule out tournament and program cuts when asked if he was determined to continue with all of the NJSIAA's 32 championship tournaments.

"I wish I could say that," Timko said. "What you don't want to do is what schools are going through right now — cutting programs. But, I don't know what the options are. This

Branching out

Hockey star, Ryan, also finds success on lacrosse field

By **SHERLON CHRISTIE**
Staff Writer

CBA LACROSSE

When Christian Brothers Academy lacrosse coach Dave Santos had a discussion with other CBA coaches about junior Joakim Ryan, they collectively came up with an intriguing conclusion.

"Here's a kid that started two varsity sports

(hockey and lacrosse) as a freshman," Santos said. "We couldn't think of anyone else (at CBA) that has done that on a team sport anyways, maybe outside of track."

Ryan, who is expected to play hockey at Cornell, was an Asbury Park Press

First-Team All-Shore hockey selection this winter. His lacrosse talent isn't too far behind, but his repertoire of sports didn't originally include lacrosse.

"When I lived in Sweden, I just played hockey and tennis," Ryan said. "My mother (Catarina Lindqvist) use to be a professional tennis player.

She got me into it (tennis) when I was young. Over in Sweden, they don't have lacrosse.

"So, the only sports that I played over there were tennis and hockey, so I focused on them a lot. I got to be pretty good (at tennis) when I was in Sweden."

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Ryan

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"I ended up being ranked second in the country for my age group. But then we moved back here to the United States."

And that's when lacrosse entered the picture.

Ryan was born in the United States but moved to Sweden in 2003. He moved back to the United States in 2005 and immediately found a temptation to play other sports such as lacrosse and football.

Well, the Colts do not have a football team, but they do have the second oldest boys lacrosse program in the Shore Conference (formed in 1999), only behind Manasquan (formed in 1990) in terms of age.

The Colts also have an impressive regular-season and postseason history since 2005, the year the Shore Conference officially organized divisions for boys lacrosse.

Up until April 15's 9-8 Class A North loss to Freehold Township, the Colts had not lost to a divisional opponent in five years and they also won four of the five Shore Conference Tournament titles.

"I've never said to myself that, 'Hey, I'm really good at lacrosse.' Hockey is obviously my main sport but lacrosse came easy to me. Hockey and lacrosse, I think are sort of similar," Ryan said. "I play defenseman in hockey but I'm like a very offensive-minded defenseman because I like to score goals and stuff and that's what I do in lacrosse."

And that's what Santos loves about him.

Ryan entered the season with 92 goals and 45 assists for 137 career points, which was ninth-best on CBA's all-time scoring list. Since then, he's scored his 100th career goal in a 16-0 victory over Marlboro on April 6. According to Santos, his is the sixth player in school history (and only the second non-senior) to accomplish this feat.

On April 22, Ryan registered nine points (five goals and four assists) in a 14-7 victory over Colts Neck. With that performance, he moved into third place on the all-time scoring list with 176 career points. Through Saturday's games, Ryan has 130 goals and 59 assists for 189 career points.

"He's an exceptional athlete and if you come watch us play, you'll see he a very unselfish kid too. He doesn't play defense here (for lacrosse) because we need him on the attack," Santos said. "He'll give up the ball and he doesn't care about his points or assists. He's more about the team and he's a pleasure to coach."