

Dodd sets pace for Grand Island

By Ryan Nagelhout Niagara Gazette

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GRAND ISLAND — No offense to hardwood or frozen gridiron, but Liam Dodd prefers the muck and mud of the lacrosse field.

The Grand Island attacker feels at home barking out calls to his teammates, and first-year coach Pete Greco hopes the senior can help the Vikings put things together this year.

“The guys respect what he says and it’s been the only team I’ve had,” Greco said. “He’s our lone captain but he does a great job off the field especially. I wish he was a sophomore or a freshman but he’s not.”

Dodd returned the praise of his coach with kind words of his own, saying there’s a bright future for Grand Island lacrosse despite the slow start this season.

“He’s a first-year coach but he’s a great guy,” Dodd said. “We didn’t start the way we wanted to but we’re working hard. We have a couple good players and all we have to do is put it together.”

As captain, Dodd is relied upon to not only lead but help Greco get acclimated to his new team.

“He’s been a good help as far as communicating with the guys,” Greco said. “I can just go through him so that helps.”

Dodd also leads the offense for the Vikings, setting the pace of the offense and making sure plays get executed properly.

“We’re looking to him to take over as far as on-field leadership, too,” Greco said. “Running the offense, setting up plays, controlling the tempo in games.

“Liam’s kind of like our quarterback out there.”

Dodd wasn’t behind center but on the line during the fall, and with a winter’s worth of basketball under his belt he feels his quicker feet can make a difference on the lacrosse field.

“Footwork is definitely key,” Dodd said. “Everything that (coach) is going off of is basketball because he was also a basketball coach so it really helps us. It’s all fundamentals and then we shoot and shoot and shoot and work on footwork until it’s almost perfect.”

Dodd will play next fall at Brockport and he said picking lacrosse was an easy decision.

“It’s my favorite sport,” Dodd said. “It’s just the intensity. With football or basketball I’m not really that guy, I wasn’t like the star or anything but with lacrosse I can lead and show people how to do everything.

“It feels great just doing it.”

Dodd and the Vikings haven’t had much time to gear up this spring with the rainy weather, but Greco said he’s confident the team will come together and make some noise this spring.

“The season’s over in less than a month so we don’t have much time left,” Greco said.

“Just to get into the sectionals and win a game.

“I think that’s everybody’s goal, go out there and win and game and play more lacrosse.”