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## Poway mauled by 'bear'

**No. 1 team in state lives up to billing**

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For 10 seconds, Poway boys lacrosse coach Paul Sanit thought his team had a chance to do something special against San Francisco St. Ignatius, the state's top-ranked team.

The Titans won the opening face-off, glided down the field and watched senior attacker John Randle go right up the gut of the defense and score the game's first goal.

Ten seconds, 1-0 Poway.

Fast-forward to 1:25 left in the third quarter. That's how long Poway went before scoring its second goal. And by then, the Wildcats had run off 10 straight.

"I guess we woke a sleeping bear," Sanit said.

In the end, St. Ignatius (3-0) was too much for Poway as it coasted to an 11-3 victory in the opening game of The First 4 lacrosse tournament last night at USD's Manchester Field.

Poway (2-1) entered the game ranked No. 2 in the state, but Sanit knew it would be an uphill battle because his team is missing four starters because of injuries. That, combined with St. Ignatius' high-powered offense, spelled trouble for the Titans.

"First off, they are one of the best high school teams I have seen in a long time. I mean, they are excellent," Sanit said. "Give credit where credit is due. That said, I really hoped for a better showing. I thought our stick work was sloppy."

After Poway's initial burst, it was all St. Ignatius. It forced turnovers, outshot its opponent and hustled to ground balls – demonstrating all the qualities that make up a top-ranked team. By halftime the Bay Area team held a 7-1 advantage after outshooting Poway 22-7. The game could have gotten even more out of hand had it not been for the goalkeeping of Chase Perkins, who displayed grace under intense fire, finishing with 18 saves.

"He played outstanding," Sanit said. "He's the real deal."

St. Ignatius attacker Miles Suter was the star of the game, recording four goals and four assists. He said his team takes the Northern-Southern California rivalry personally.

"It's unspoken, but we all know it's there," Suter said. "We wanted to come down here and really represent our region."

After the loss, Poway midfielder Dustin Clark – a returning All-American – said despite the team's injuries, the Titans should have put on a better showing for the 200-plus fans who lined the field.

"We know we can play better than this," he said. "We just have to use it and come back stronger."

St. Ignatius coach Greg Angilly said Poway's quick surge turned out to be a good thing.

"It was a wake-up call for our guys," Angilly said. "We are a confident team. Not cocky, but confident. That gave us a little kick-start."

Sanit said he doesn't anticipate this game being a setback for his squad.

"It's still real early on and I think this can define our season one of two ways," he said. "It all depends what you take from it. It doesn't matter who is No. 1 in March. All that matters is who is No. 1 in May."

Southern California didn't fare much better in the late game. Concord De La Salle downed Coronado 17-4.