**Around the Horn baseball column: Hamilton-Wenham's triple threat Lanciani an ideal table setter for CAL Baker champs**[**Around the Horn, *Salem News*** Matt Williams](https://www.salemnews.com/users/profile/Matt%20Williams)

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It’d be too simple to call Hamilton-Wenham senior **Jake Lanciani** a five-tool player.

That’s certainly true of his baseball exploits. But when you factor in what he can do on a basketball court or a football field, it’s not outlandish to say Lanciani has more tools than the Craftsman section of the local Sears.

Tuesday, Lanciani put the final jewel in a rare triple crown for a high school athlete. With Hamilton-Wenham’s 5-0 win over Georgetown to clinch the Cape Ann League’s Baker Division title, Lanciani has now been a key part of three major league championships in his senior year, having won in football last fall and basketball this past winter.

Having been one of the area’s top wide receivers, the CAL Baker MVP in basketball and a surefire candidate for the same award in baseball, one has to wonder which sport is the future University of Vermont student’s favorite.

“Honestly it really depends on the season. I thoroughly enjoy all three,” Lanciani said. “It can come down to the type of team you have, and this year all three teams felt like family. It’s been a great year.”

The baseball title is Hamilton-Wenham’s first since 2003. Now 13-5, they’ve tied for the most regular season wins under coach **Reggie Maidment**, who was a player on H-W’s 2002 CAL championship squad.

“I love the way we’ve fought this year. We seldom hang our heads and worry about bad breaks in games,” said Maidment, who knows just how important Lanciani’s versatility has been to his team’s success.

A three-year starter at shortstop, Lanciani is the consummate leadoff hitter. He has 21 hits and has scored 17 runs, but is most dangerous when taking a lead away from the first base bag. His 23 steals lead the North Shore, and the impact his speed has on opposing pitchers reverberates through the entire Generals’ lineup.

“When he gets on base, he’s a menace,” Maidment said. “It sparks everything for us because the pitchers are so worried about him over there that other guys get better pitches to hit. He’s the only kid I’ve ever had that I’ve given a green light to in any situation.”

From Lanciani’s point of view, the defensive portion of the game can be the most fun. Spending extra time drilling double play balls with second baseman **Conor Evers** and hitting with catcher **Phil Durgin**are two of his favorite habits; he’s seldom checks his batting average and is happy to draw a walk and try to score even if he goes 0-for-2.

“I like competing and trying to get wins. That’s my main goal,” said Lanciani, who boasts a win and two saves pitching primarily in late-game pressure situations. “When I was a sophomore we didn’t have many relief pitchers and Reg trusted me to get us out of some jams. Ever since then that’s kind of been my role — and I enjoy it.”

Lanciani and Maidment agree that the Generals have one of their deepest pitching staffs in recent memory. **Paul Horgan** has been incredible and **Everett Wonson** and **Luke McClintock** have been revelations. Offensively, Horgan’s been the team’s leading hitter, and RBI threats like **Adam Parady** and **Hunter Wilichoski** are doing big things along with **Ian Coffey**.

“There’s so many talented kids and I think Reg has done such a great job molding us and making sure everyone has a job and a way to tap into their potential,” said Lanciani. “This team picks each other up so much; not everyone has a great night every night, and we have guys stepping up to help. Winning the CAL is a huge accomplishment considering how good the league is for Division 3 and Division 4.”

Baseball is the thinking man’s game, which is one of the things Lanciani loves most about his spring sport. He’s always looking at opposing pitchers for tells about their pickoff move or their plate offerings, and he’s got a mind for the game that looks two or three moves ahead.

“Jake doesn’t just want to know what to do, he wants to know why,” Maidment said. “He’s smart ballplayer. He does a lot with his athletic ability but a lot of his success comes from headiness, too.”

In the era of specialization, Lanciani finds ways to keep all of his many tools sharp. Spending time on football and basketball hasn’t taken away from his baseball acumen; it’s been just the opposite.

“It says a lot that he’s a three-sport athlete,” Maidment said. “He’s never hurt, never sore, never misses a game. And in all three sports he wins. Jake’s a great kid — a gamer and a winner.”

#### Hamilton-Wenham girls tennis blanks Ipswich

**By****Christopher Hurley****churley@wickedlocal.com**Posted May 21, 2018 at 2:03 PM

MacKenzie Wallas and Elisa Vess secured the shutout, as the Hamilton-Wenham girls tennis team blanked Ipswich, 3-0, April 18 at Myopia.

A pair of freshmen, Wallas and Vess battled juniors Tessa Devue and Sophie Harmon for three sets, before ultimately winning the tiebreaker 6-7, 6-4, 7-5.

It was the last of five impressive efforts from the varsity.

Sophomore Ella Provost was sharp topping Talia Kaplenien at first singles, 6-0, 6-0. Sophomore Grace Condon was in control at second singles stopping Sydney Doolan, 6-0, 6-0. Senior Nell Coues beat Jillian Gregory at third, 6-1, 6-0, to clinch the victory.

Tori Cooper and Kate Rubel were a force at first singles edging Lauren Kennedy and Nicole Sindoni 6-2, 6-2 to complete the shutout.

# Hamilton-Wenham boys tennis team clinches tourney berth

**By****Christopher Hurley****churley@wickedlocal.com**

Posted May 21, 2018 at 1:27 PMUpdated May 21, 2018 at 1:50 PM

Nick Ong and Will Curtis helped punch the Hamilton-Wenham boys tennis team’s ticket into the state tournament.

The second doubles team Ong, and Curtis came through in the clutch winning a three set thriller 6-7 (4), 6-2, 6-0, to seal the team’s 3-2 victory over Ipswich, May 18.

With the win was extra special for Coach Joe Maher, giving him his 250th career victory on the court.

The Generals were bolstered by big wins by Jack Greenwald at third singles, 6-2, 6-3, and the first doubles dominance of John Farnham and Thor Messer 6-4, 6-3, to seal the victory.

# Hamilton-Wenham boys lacrosse tops Chelmsford in OT

**By****Christopher Hurley****churley@wickedlocal.com**

Posted May 21, 2018 at 1:50 PMUpdated May 21, 2018 at 1:50 PM

Whenever the Hamilton-Wenham and Chelmsford boys lacrosse teams square off anything is possible,

Last season, the two rivals battled it out in a quadruple overtime thriller, with the Generals taking the contest 13-12. One year later, the foes left it all out on the field again, this time in a double OT classic. Both resulted in Hamilton-Wenham wins.

Andrew Riccio netted the hat trick including the game-winner as the Generals grounded Chelmsford, 7-6, May 18. With the win Hamilton-Wenham improved to 12-1 on the season.

The game proved to be a hard-fought battle from start to finish, with the Generals jumping out to a 4-1 lead early in the second quarter. Chelmsford managed to climb back closing the gap to 4-3 just before the half, and tying things at 5-5 heading into the fourth quarter,

Both teams traded quality opportunities. Tommy Lattanzi scored the go-ahead goal off a feed from Riccio late, but Chelmsford netted the equalizer, sending the game into extra sessions.

Hamilton-Wenham goaltender Mayo Amorello didn’t fold under pressure making a huge save at the buzzer of the first OT. The Generals made a huge defensive stand, surviving several scary situations, setting the stage for Ricco. The senior captain and program’s all-time leading scored pounded on a great dodge from the faceoff X to take the game.

The Generals got production from Griffin Barlow (2 goals, 2 assists), Kit Shaw (goal, assist), and Tommy Lattanzi (goal). Defensively the Generals were bolstered by the play of Henry Schibli, Zane Clark, Clint Gourdeau, Max Bensley, Bryson and Colby Cala, and Aidan Nistl.

The Generals were set to return to action Monday for Senior Day against St. Mary’s Lynn, before travelling to face Division 2 powerhouse Melrose, Wednesday, May 23.

Hamilton-Wenham will be looking to secure the top seed in Division 3 North bracket over their last three regular season games, finishing at Pentucket on May 30.

**Hamilton-Wenham baseball team closes in on CAL pennant****By Dom Nicastro / Correspondent**Posted May 18, 2018 at 1:45 pm

The Hamilton-Wenham baseball team is heading down the stretch run of the 2018 season with a Cape Ann League Baker title well in sight.

Heading into this week, the Generals are in first place with a 10-3 league record and stand at 11-3 overall. Georgetown is right behind the Generals at 8-3 in the league and 9-4 overall heading into this week. Manchester Essex is 7-5 in the league and 8-5 overall.

The Generals are looking this week to get back on track. That’s kind of being harsh. It’s not as if they’ve fallen off any track. All that happened was a 6-3 loss to Manchester Essex that snapped a seven-game win streak.

They were the hottest team in that span that began with a 10-0 win over Lynnfield April 24. The streak ended with a 7-3 victory over Bishop Fenwick May 9.

In the loss to Manchester Essex, the Generals went into extra innings with the Hornets. Hunter Wilichoski’s hit drove in Jake Lanciani to tie the game in the seventh and force extras.

Everett Wonson (six strikeouts in relief) and Paul Horgan (two hits) had fine efforts for Hamilton-Wenham.

In the last game of the winning streak, Horgan was the man of the night with the win on the hill. Lanciani, Adam Parady, Luke McClintock, Conor Evers and Horgan were standouts on offense.

But now Hamilton-Wenham’s attention is fully on this week. The Generals had a scheduled game against Amesbury on the road Tuesday and then host Rockport Thursday. They travel to Rockport Saturday at 7 p.m. in the first round of the Memorial Day Baseball Tournament. The second round is back in Rockport May 26.

“This is a big week for us,” Hamilton-Wenham coach Reggie Maidment said. “We play an Amesbury team that has vastly improved since the last time we’ve played them. We play a young Rockport team on Senior Day on Thursday and then we face off again against Rockport in the opening round of the Rockport Memorial Day Tournament.”

Maidment was pumped about the seven-game winning streak, naturally. He said the winning string was highlighted by a league win against Lynnfield, which saw a no-hitter from Paul Horgan. The Generals also had a big win against another league foe, North Reading.

“But the biggest win was against Bishop Fenwick in a game we won 7-3,” Maidment said.

Offensively Hamilton-Wenham has been led by senior captain and shortstop Lanciani, who’s been a great leadoff guy for the team all season, Maidment said. Also, the team has been receiving great power from Wilichoski and Parady.

“Defensively we’ve been solid all season with sophomore second baseman Conor Evers, four-year starting catcher Phil Durgin, junior centerfield Paul Horgan and Lanciani at shortstop,” Maidment said.

When Horgan or Lanciani come in to pitch, the Generals have been getting great efforts from Lenny Dolan in center and Quinlan Kelly at short.

“We have a great deal of pitching help also from freshman Luke McClintock. juniors Horgan, Mark Roselli and Everett Wonson and our go-to guy Lanciani out of the bullpen,” Maidment said. “The entire pitching staff has been extremely successful all season long.”

 **Friday's area roundup, Salem News
H-W tennis coach Maher snares career win No. 250
May 18, 2018**

**BOYS TENNIS
Hamilton-Wenham 3, Ipswich 2:** In a competitive bout, the second doubles team of Nick Ong and Will Curtis prevailed in three sets, 6-7, 6-2, 6-0 to clinch the win for Hamilton-Wenham and with it the 250th career victory for head coach Joe Maher (in his 20th season at the helm).

Also winning for the Generals were the first doubles team of John Farnham and Thor Messer (6-4, 6-3) and Jack Greenwald (6-2, 6-3). For Ipswich (7-5), Declan O’Flynn won 6-1, 6-0 and Austin Pszenny won 6-2, 6-3.

**GIRLS TENNIS
Hamilton-Wenham 5, Ipswich 0:** The Generals prevailed with Ipswich’s duo of Tessa Devoe and Sophie Harmon playing the day’s longest match at 7-6, 4-6, 6-8 (tiebreaker).

**BOYS LACROSSE
Hamilton-Wenham 7, Chelmsford 6:** Playing multiple overtimes against the Lions for the second straight season, Andrew Riccio’s third goal of the day (to go with one assist) was the game-winner in the second extra session. Mayo Amorello had several spectacular saves in the H-W cage, including one in the first overtime that kept the game tied. Griffin Barlow added to the offense with two goals and two assists, with Kit Shaw adding a goal and an assist and Tommy Lattanzi also scoring. Henry Schibli, Zane Clark, Clint Gourdeau, Max Bensley, Aidan Nistil, and brothers Bryson and Colby Cala were also standouts in the win

**Wednesday's area roundup, Salem News
Curtis, Ong propel H-W boys tennis to huge win over Hornets
May 16, 2018**

**BOYS TENNIS
Hamilton-Wenham 3, Manchester Essex 2:** Will Curtis and Nick Ong came up big in second doubles, scoring the crucial point with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-0 victory to power the Generals (7-3 overall, 5-1 CAL) into first place in the Cape Ann League Baker Division. John Farnham and Thor Messer were also winners at first doubles, 6-3, 7-5, as was senior captain Jack Greenwald victorious at third singles, 6-3, 6-2.

**BASEBALL
Hamilton-Wenham 5, Amesbury 0:** Luke McClintock got the win on the mound for the Generals (12-3), going 4.2 innings, before paving the way for Jake Lanciani who completed the shut out bid. Lanciani, Hunter Wilichoski and Everett Wonson each had RBI hits, while Cam Vatour scored twice.

 **Playoff atmosphere ends with Generals, Falcons fit to be tied
By Austin Woolman  Staff Writer
May 16, 2018

DANVERS —** Spring and the high school regular season have certain similarities: they manifest the start of something new and are welcomed with open arms. Yet as they near their end, people can't help but long for what's to come.

But like flowers that bloom early, both can arrive ahead of schedule — which is what happened in Wednesday's girls lacrosse contest between Hamilton-Wenham and Danvers.

With the regular season rapidly ending, both teams need as many wins as possible to keep their playoff aspirations afloat. Unfortunately, 50 minutes of regulation was not enough to decide a victor as the Falcons and Generals played to an 11-11 tie at Danvers High.

"We weren't running our offensive plays well," said Generals head coach Abbi Schibli. "We were OK defensively and had some good moments in midfield transition. We did some nice things out there but couldn't find our rhythm."

"It's disappointing," added Hamilton-Wenham captain Tessa Landon. "I feel like we were the better team today. We didn't start our best, but we ended strong. There were good elements but we didn't play our best."

Schibli and Landon's emotions are somewhat understandable. The Generals (6-7-1) managed to score two quick goals in the closing minutes to even the score, but it came after squandering an early 4-0 lead. The quick offensive attack can be attributed to attackers Erin O'Shea and Katie Everitt, who ended the tilt with five and three goals, respectively.

After finding themselves down in game's early stages, Danvers (5-8-1) head coach Nico Prandi called a timeout to remind his squad that their season was on the line.

"It was unacceptable to waste a timeout because we came out flat," said Prandi, "especially since we were coming off our two best games of the year. It was just a matter of putting our heads on straight, or it'd be an embarrassing way to finish our last home game. We just needed an attitude adjustment; then we started playing the way I knew we were capable of."

After the timeout, Danvers outscored Hamilton-Wenham 11-7 the rest of the way. Their biggest catalyst during this stretch was senior Isabel McKenna, who racked up four goals and two assists. The Falcons also got timely goals from Natalie Gesualdi and Riley Geannairs, who netted two scores apiece.

However, defender Grace Leete and goalie Fiona Barrett were most responsible for helping the Falcons get back into the game. Leete sacrificed her body and drew a number of run-through calls, which gave offensive possession back to Danvers, and Barrett turned away 12 of Hamilton-Wenham's shots on net.

"We haven't had Grace for several weeks due to a concussion," said Prandi. "It's great having her back; she's a natural leader who does it by example."

After McKenna scored to give the Falcons an 11-9 advantage, Hamilton-Wenham's Erin O'Shea scored to bring her team within one. The Generals then snagged possession right back, and captain Tessa Landon buried a free position shot in the back of the cage.

Of all the players to score such an important goal, Schibli found it fitting that Landon was the one responsible. "She organizes everything and is always cheering everyone on," said the coach. "She makes everyone around her a better person, and I'm glad she's finishing the season so strong."

The two teams face each other again on May 23. For the Generals, they have to earn wins in two of their final three games; Danvers must win its final four games — all on the road, beginning Thursday at Swampscott and culminating May 30 at powerhouse Marblehead — to earn a postseason spot.

Even though the draw makes it more difficult for each squad to make the postseason, Prandi saw it as a valuable lesson for his girls.

"This game showed the girls what it takes to win in the playoffs," said Prandi. "These last two games have provided them with a playoff atmosphere, but this one also showed them what mistakes you can't make. It's unfortunate that those four early goals ended up being the difference, and it shows them that turnovers and missed shots can really come back to bite you."