

STICKS & STONES

Volume 2, Issue 4

August 2009

THE ONTARIO LACROSSE FESTIVAL: SHOWCASING CANADA'S BEST PEE WEE AND BANTAM PLAYERS



I had the opportunity this year to attend the beginning of the pee wee, bantam and bantam girls national championships. This issue of Sticks and Stones will be dedicated to the players, games and events that comprised this unique event.

An opening to remember

The championships kicked off on Sunday, August 2nd with the Opening Ceremonies. The atmosphere at Iroquois Park during the team introductions was nothing short of electric! Parents, siblings and lacrosse enthusiasts alike were out in full force to lend their support to their favorite squad.

Tailgating on the opening ceremonies was the first game of the Bantam National Championships. This match pitted Iroquois v. Al-

berta in a non-stop, action-packed match. Goals were at a premium in a first period that ended 1-1. However the pace picked up in the second period as the two teams each netted another goal before the Iroquois team went on a 4-0 route to end the second period. The third period also started off with a bang and was, without a doubt, the most exciting period of the match as Alberta rallied with three straight goals to bring the score to 6-5 before the Iroquois team netted two more goals, including an empty netter, to claim the opening game of the championships.

The Festival

The Ontario Lacrosse Festival is a 10-day affair that features both national and provincial lacrosse, crowning 35 champions, most notably the Pee Wee, Bantam and Girls Bantam National Champions. This year's edition of the festival was the sixth of its kind, establishing it as one of the premier annual lacrosse events in Canada.

A New Era in Canadian Lacrosse

This year's Festival marked the

beginning of a new era in Canadian lacrosse as, for the first time ever the Girls Bantam division competed for the crown of National Champions. The Girls' tournament kicked off on Tuesday evening, August 4th and featured two games: New Brunswick v. BC and Ontario v. Alberta.

The inaugural game of the Bantam Girls tournament featured New Brunswick in an exciting contest with BC. The atmosphere for this game was incredible. A few dozen supporters were present to cheer on both teams and the noise level in the arena was louder than the Opening Ceremonies. While the BC team was heavily favored headed into the match, the first period was a tightly contested affair that ended with BC clinging to a narrow 2-1 lead. While both teams played at a high tempo and left everything on the floor, BC started to pull away as they took a 6-1 lead midway through the third frame. However the spirit of the New Brunswick team was unflinching and they netted two quick goals in a late surge that kept everyone on the edge of their

Inside this issue:

BIOS: A Glimpse at some of our Athletes	2
The Many Faces of Pee-Wee/Bantam Nationals	3
BIOS con'td	4
Important Deadlines	4

seats. The final score was 6-3 for BC, but the overriding story was the establishment of a thrilling new national championship event that promises to get better every year.



BIOS: THE PLAYERS: A GLIMPSE AT SOME OF OUR YOUNG ATHLETES

Chelsea Weisgerber

Prov. Team:
Club Team:
Years playing LAX:
Reason for playing:

Favorite LAX moment:

Who got you involved in LAX?

Bantam Girls (BC)
North Okanagan Legends
4
"It's a lot of fun and good exercise"
"When I knocked a boy on the floor"
Dad

Kyra Bradley

Prov. Team:
Club Team:
Years playing LAX:
Reason for playing:
Favorite LAX moment:

Who got you involved in LAX?

Bantam Girls (BC)
Port Coquitlam Saints
7
Family
"Finding out one of the New West boys was afraid of me"
Dad

Savannah Phillips

Prov. Team:
Club Team:
Years playing LAX:
Reason for playing:
Favorite LAX moment:

Who got you involved in LAX?

Bantam Girls (BC)
Delta LAX
7
"It's fun"
"Scoring both right-handed and left-handed"
Family



Sean Muir

Prov. Team:
Club Team:
Years playing LAX:
Reason for playing:

Bantam (NS)
Bedford Rock
9
"It's fun"



Monica Forestell

Prov. Team:
Years playing LAX:
Reason for playing:

Bantam Girls (NB)
2
"Because my friends were playing"

Jen McTague

Prov. Team:
Years playing LAX:
Reason for playing:

Who got you involved in LAX?

Bantam Girls (NB)
3
"I play because it involves many types of other sports and I love team sports"
Sister

Cayli Way

Prov. Team:
Years playing LAX:
Reason for playing:
What got you involved in LAX?

Bantam Girls (NB)
2
"I play because I have a passion for sports"
"Watching a game and observing its physical nature"



Cole Cutler

Prov. Team:
Club Team:
Years playing LAX:
What got you involved in LAX?

Pee Wee (QC)
Montréal Shamrocks
5
Local team needed a goalie

Donald Doyle

Prov. Team:
Club Team:
Years playing LAX:
Who got you involved in LAX?

Pee Wee (QC)
Montréal Shamrocks
5
Friend (Cole Cutler)

Norman King

Prov. Team:
Club Team:
Years playing LAX:
What got you involved in LAX?

Pee Wee (QC)
Akwasasne Storm
5
Wanted to be like John Tavares

Matt Kant

Prov. Team:
Club Team:
Years playing LAX:
Reason for playing:
Favorite LAX moment:

Pee Wee (NS)
Eastern Shore Breakers
6
"It's fun and my friends play"
"Winning the 2008-09 House League Championship"

Gregor Zed

Prov. Team:
Club Team:
Years playing LAX:
Reason for playing:
Favorite LAX moment:

Pee Wee (NS)
Southwest Hurricanes
5
"My older brother plays"
"Beating Saskatchewan in our first game of this tournament"

Cont'd on page 4

THE MANY FACES OF PEEWEE/BANTAM NATIONALS





BIOS: CONT'D

Coaches Corner

Chad Fairfoull

Prov. Team:
Club Team:
Reason for coaching:

Bantam (QC)
Nepean Knights (Jr. B)
"When I used to play, one of my coaches encouraged me to give back and get involved in coaching"
"Had an athlete who wasn't going to get very much playing time. I offered to trade him to a team where he would play every game. He chose to stay and train with the team to become a better player. In the last game of the season, I put him in and he scored."

Favorite LAX moment:

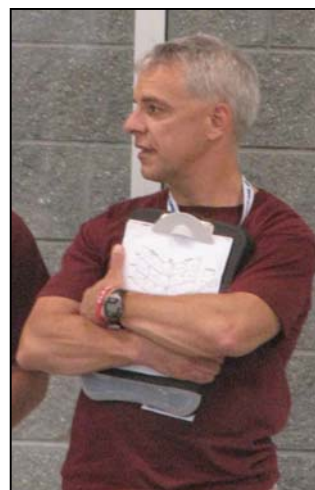


François Leblanc

Prov. Team:
Years coaching LAX:
Reason for coaching:
team
Fun fact:

Pee Wee (NB)
1
Son qualified for the provincial pee wee

François' first win at Nationals came at this year's championship in a 5-1 win over Nova Scotia



IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES TO REMEMBER



DEADLINES:

August 25 – Ross Cup and Victory Trophy entry fees are due
October 5 – Policy change proposal and reports for AGM are due
October 16 – Organization fees are due
November 15 – Claims for referee travel to National Championships are due

CLA Meetings:

Annual General Meeting – Nov. 19th to No. 21st – Cornwall, ON

National Championships:

Pee Wee/Bantam Nationals August 2-8 – Whitby, ON
Girls Bantam Box Nationals—August 2-8—Whitby, ON
Minto Cup – August 21st – 30th - Brampton, ON
Midget Nationals – August 21-30 - Brampton, ON

Founders' Cup – August 17-22 – Edmonton, AB

Presidents' Cup – August 24-29 - Six Nations, CANAM

First Nations Trophy/Alumni Cup - Sep. 4th 6th – Winnipeg, MB

Mann Cup – September 4-12—British Columbia

Ross Cup/Victory Trophy – Oct 9th to 11th – Mississauga, ON

International Events

Women's Sr. World Championships - June 17th - June 27th, 2009 - Prague,