

## Box Nationals 2014 - Coquitlam & New West, BC



2014 Team BC Midget Boys Team - Gold

Photos Courtesy:  
Brenda Murray



2014 Team BC Bantam Boys Team - Silver



2014 Team BC Pee Wee Boys Team - Silver

The Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget boys Box Lacrosse Nationals took place August 4-9, in Coquitlam and New Westminster, BC.

**Pee Wee**-The Pee Wee boys finished the round robin in second place with a 4 win, 1 loss record. Team BC scores were: 18-1 over Nova Scotia, 16-0 over New Brunswick, 15-3 over Alberta, 10-1 over Saskatchewan, with their only blemish, a 12-1 drubbing by Ontario. Team BC beat Alberta 5-2 in the semis in a tight battle. Team Ontario, the class of the tournament, with their pressure defense and high powered offense, outpaced the BC'ers to 3-1 and 5-1 scores in the first two periods, to go onto an 8-2 victory for the gold. Team BC top scorers overall were Jack Carboneau (6G, 7A), Ben McDonald (10G, 2A) and Luca Antongiiovanni (8G, 4A). Goaltenders Adam Bland and Trase Recsky posted 3.00 and 6.00 goals against averages respectively. Ben McDonald was Team BC's tournament all-star selection.

"This experience was valuable for me to prepare our players for future national competitions," explained Coach Daren Fridge. "I know now that we need elite players to be able to "think the game" and adjust their play for the greater good. I was proud of how we rebounded in our second game against Ontario -- they were the best....this year!"

**Bantams**-The Bantams went into Nationals with an excellent team that had only one goal in mind -- GOLD. They ended up in second place after the round robin with a 4 win, 1 loss record. Team BC scores were: 10-3 over Manitoba, 6-3 over Alberta, a 9-1 win over Saskatchewan, 13-2 over Nova Scotia, and a tight 5-3 loss to Ontario. Team BC top scorers were: Jake Cantlon (11G, 9A), Finn Stark (7G, 4A), Ryan Jensen (3G, 6A), and Dylan McCormick (5G, 3A). Goalies Johnny Edin and Ryan Atkinson posted 3.75 and 3.00 goals against averages.

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Team BC met a relentless Team Alberta squad in the semi-finals and come up with a gutsy 6-5 victory punching their ticket to the gold medal game versus Ontario. Team BC led 3-1 after one and 4-3 after the second frame only to be held scoreless in the third as Ontario potted two unassisted goals in the final period to overtake Team BC 5-4 in a classic gold medal game. Jake Cantlon was selected Team BC's tournament all-star.

"Although we did not reach our goal of a gold medal, the journey was a fantastic experience," said Coach Rich Catton. "The boy's dedication to work hard was a testament to the bond they formed with their teammates and their love of the game! It is my hope that the Team BC Program provided the boys with a great taste of high level of lacrosse. Thank you to all the volunteers and support staff that helped us throughout the experience."

**Midgets**-The Midget team was the odds on favourite to win gold at Box Nationals. Not because Team Iroquois and Ontario did not compete, rather for the talented group of athletes and coaches that became the Team BC Midget team. The Midgets placed first after the round robin with a flawless 6 win, 0 loss record. Team BC scores were: 15-0 over New Brunswick, 15-1 over Manitoba, 17-2 over Alberta, 13-2 over Nova Scotia, 16-0 over Saskatchewan and 15-0 over Quebec.

Team BC met Alberta in the finals and had little problem getting up on them early and often with period scores of 5-1 and 7-2, as Team BC scored nine unanswered goals to thump Alberta 14-2 to win gold. Team BC top scorers were: Tre Leclaire (12G, 14A), Ryan Martel (11G, 13A), Nathan Kozevnikov (7G, 12A), Mackenzie Rope (12G, 6A) and Clark Walter (9G, 9A). Goalkeepers Torin Van Rheenen and Cameron Overby both had measly 1.00 goals against averages. Tre Leclaire was named the Team BC tournament all-star.

"The coaching staff and I were extremely proud and honored to be part of such a great group of athletes," stated Coach Curt Malawsky. "It was truly amazing how our team handled themselves on and off the floor throughout the entire tournament. The compete level of our boys was second to none. In such a short period of time, the boys came together as a team, seamlessly adapted to the new systems and left everything they had on the floor. These boys EARNED the right to be crowned.....National Champions."

Team BC Box Lacrosse Technical Coordinator, Darcy Rhodes, was proud of all athletes, coaches, managers and volunteers that made the Team BC experience impressive.

"It is quite an accomplishment and a tribute to all the parents, coaches and managers and who put in countless hours for our athletes to have the opportunity to represent Team BC. Our three Box gold medals is our best showing in years," mentioned Rhodes. "All Team BC athletes were treated to some incredible coaching with our most experienced staffs in history. We continue to grow each year to improve our program to compete at the highest level -- we are taking the right steps in achieving excellence."

BCLA VP of Performance Programs, Ron McQuarrie, sees Team BC getting stronger every year, especially with the quality coaches applying their trade with the athletes.

"In 2014, we saw four National Lacrosse League coaches come back and provide BC athletes with some outstanding coaching in the Team BC Program," exclaimed McQuarrie. "We are all very proud the medals won by our Team BC squads."

