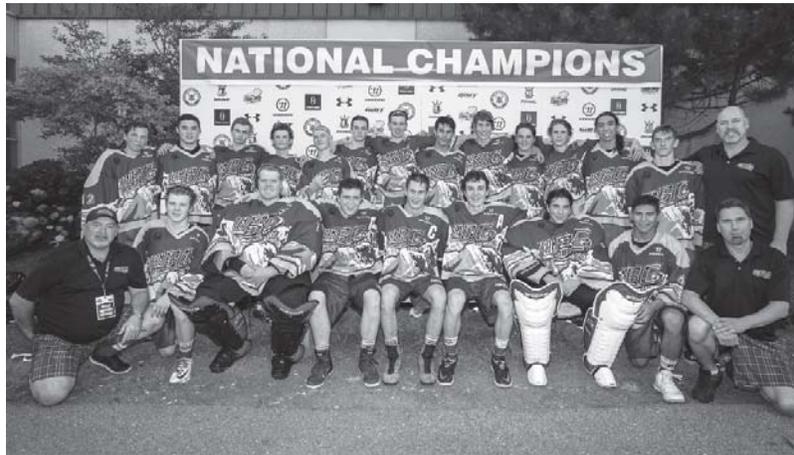


Box Nationals 2015 - Saskatoon, SK & Whitby, ON



Top Photo Courtesy:
Tim Prothero

Lower Photos Courtesy:
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Tim McCormick

2015 Team BC Midget Boys Team - Bronze



2015 Team BC Bantam Boys Team - Silver



2015 Team BC Pee Wee Boys Team - Silver

This past summer, six Team BC Box Lacrosse teams competed in three provinces at the 2015 Youth National Box Lacrosse Championships. The Bantam boys Nationals were held July 21-25 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, while the Pee Wee and Midget boys Nationals were August 2-8, in Whitby, Ontario alongside the OLA Lacrosse Festival..

Pee Wee-The Pee Wee boys finished the round robin in third place with a 5 win, 2 loss record. Team BC scores were: 17-2 over Nova Scotia, 14-1 over New Brunswick, 17-1 over Saskatchewan, 8-7 over First Nations, 15-3 over Manitoba and two losses, 6-2 to Alberta and a 9-3 drubbing by Ontario. Team BC bounced back to beat Alberta 5-2 in a remarkable and well-played semi-final game. Team Ontario, the class of the tournament, was a well-tuned machine and outpaced the BC'ers to go onto an 11-2 victory for the gold. Team BC top scorers overall were Joel McCormick (11G, 8A), Finn Halladay (9G, 6A), Josh Iacino (9G, 5A) and Hunter Meyer (7G, 8A). Goaltender tandem Brayden Wandler and Brednan Hunchak yielded a measly 42 goals in 9 games. Josh Iacino was Team BC's tournament all-star selection.

"We were very happy with the boy's performance at Nationals, but fell short of our goal and achieved a silver medal," explained Coach Daren Fridge. "As a staff, we feel confident that we exposed our boys to a rewarding experience both on and off the floor. We played our best against Alberta in the semi-final game and our keys to success were definitely the full-court pressure and the physical play on defense. The players really bonded with one another in a short period of time -- they will definitely have lasting memories from this trip."

Bantams-The Bantams went into Nationals with an excellent team that had only one goal in mind -- GOLD. They ended up round robin play with a 3 win and 2 loss record. Team BC scores were: 9-2 over Alberta, 8-2 over Saskatchewan, 13-1 over Nova Scotia and losses to the First Nations 6-4 and Ontario 6-3. Team BC top scorers were: Mitchell Sandberg (12G, 3A), Dylan Ford (8G, 6A), Drew Andre (2G, 9A), and Ryan Sheridan (4G, 4A). The goalie tandem of Nolan Dalep and Keegan Melenychuk posted a team 4.05 goals against average and allowed 31 goals.

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Team BC met a relentless Team Alberta squad in the semi-finals and come up with a gutsy 8-7 victory punching their ticket to the gold medal game versus Ontario. In the gold game, Team BC had little left in the tanks, as Ontario rattled off six goals in a row to beat Team BC 7-2 in the final game. Mitchel Sandberg was selected Team BC's tournament all-star.

"Our boys battled hard every step of the way, but fell short in the last game," said Coach Jason Bishop. "The journey was a tough grind and a fantastic experience – one many players will never forget."

Midgets-The Midget team looked to repeat as national champs. Parity was evident with the Midgets as it was a 5-team battle at the top with improved Nova Scotia and First Nations squads. The Midgets placed third after the round robin with a 3-2-1 record after battling illness and adversity. Team BC scores were: 13-1 over New Brunswick, 10-7 over Alberta, 15-2 over Saskatchewan, a 7-7 tie with Nova Scotia, and two losses, 10-7 to First Nations and 7-1 versus Ontario.

The First Nations team proved to be a thorn in Team BC's side all tournament as BC lost 11-5 in the semi-finals. Team BC met Nova Scotia for the bronze and persevered with a narrow 6-5 victory for the bronze. Team BC top scorers were: Sekawnee Baker (11G, 8A), Adam Fulton (8G, 3A), Kyle Nichols (9G) and William Clayton (8G, 6A). Goaltenders Justin Smith and Brodie Harris held their opponents to 50 goals against in eight games. Sekawnee Baker was named the Team BC tournament all-star.

"While we fell short of our goal of a National Championship, I believe that the team upheld the high standard of play, respect and sportsmanship that has been associated with the program since the start. It was an honour to coach our Team BC Midget team," stated Coach Trevor Smith. "I'm very proud of the Bronze Medal. With our fair share of hurdles, the team fought through adversity to earn a national medal. It was a great experience."

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

"The 2015 Team BC Box Lacrosse program once again had a successful year at Nationals, all teams came home with hardware," stated Rhodes. "All players, coaches and team personnel should be proud by the way they conducted themselves at Nationals -- it is always nice to get such positive feedback on how well Team BC represents themselves as a Province at Nationals."

BCLA VP of Performance Programs, Ron McQuarrie, was proud of Team BC's accomplishments fully knowing the athletes took their games to another level.

"In 2015, we saw four National Lacrosse League level and a few Hall of Fame coaches share their knowledge and expertise while coaching various Team BC box teams," exclaimed McQuarrie. "The amount of lacrosse learned by the athletes, not only individual skill, but also team play, is worth its weight in gold."

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