

# Young SFU squad falls short of 2007 PNCLL Title

By: William Howard, SFU Lacrosse Media Relations

After a strong rebuilding season, Simon Fraser University's men's lacrosse team fell short of winning the PNCLL conference title, losing to eventual national runner-up, University of Oregon Ducks, in the championship game of the 2007 PNCLL Final Four Championships in Tacoma, Washington April 28-29.

SFU would enter the Final Four as the PNCLL's # 2 seed after posting a 5-1 conference record and an overall regular season record of 8 wins, 1 loss. The semi-final would see a rematch of 2006 with the Clan facing off with # 3 Oregon State University Beavers. SFU beat OSU 15-10 in the 2007 PNCLL season opener.

A much anticipated semi-final re-match would see a new-look Clan determined not suffer the same result of the previous year. SFU was dominant from the start of the 2007 semi-final and prevented OSU from getting on a roll. A strong SFU offence fired on all cylin-

ders and methodically dismantled a veteran OSU roster. A lethal transition attack and a settled motion offence would overwhelm the Beavers and put the Clan up 10-1 at the half. Final score SFU 19, OSU 6. Freshman Attack Ben Towner (Port Coquitlam) and Mike Ripley (Saskatoon, SK) led the Clan with 5 goals apiece, while freshman midfielder Kevin Crowley (New Westminster) added 3 goals and 3 assists. Defensively SFU was led by freshman long pole Luke Genereux (Port Coquitlam) and sophomore defender Calvin Castagner (New Westminster) who held the Beavers scoreless until well into the second quarter.

The 2007 conference final would put the Clan up against long-time rivals University of Oregon Ducks. The defending conference champions came into the Final Four as the top seed and would advance to the finals with a convincing 17-6 win over #4 Boise State University Broncos. UO had also handed SFU its only loss of the '07 season on their way to a #3 national ranking in MCLA Top 25 Polls.

SFU came out strong versus the Ducks and scored the games first goal before losing momentum to Oregon and never regaining any type of control.

UO dominated a young Clan team that barely resembled the day before, struggling to gain possession and unable to counter the Ducks transition game en route to a convincing 22-7 victory. With this win, the University of Oregon Ducks gained the PNCLL berth to compete against the nations top 16 collegiate club teams at the MCLA National Championship, in Frisco, Texas. The Ducks would be victorious over elimination round opponents Lindenwood University 13-10, University of Minnesota-Duluth 10-8 and Colorado State University 9-8 (OT) before losing 16-9 to #1 Brigham Young University in the MCLA National Championship game. Oregon's second place finish would make them only the second PNCLL team to play in the National Championship Final since SFU lost to Colorado State University in 1999.

Highlighting the season for the Clan was a 9-2 record and overall winning percentage of .818. SFU also re-emerged as one of the nations most potent offences leading the nation with an average of 18 goals per game and outscoring opponents 197-117. Several players on the Clan roster also received conference and national recognition. Senior midfielder Mike Christians (Victoria) was named to the MCLA-A All-American 2ND Team and received 1st Team PNCLL All-Conference honours. Sophomore midfielder Curtis Manning (Surrey) received his second Academic All-American and was also named to the PNCLL All-Conference 1st Team alongside freshman long-pole Luke Genereux (Port Coquitlam). Making the PNCLL All-Conference 2ND Team were freshman attack Ben Towner, sophomore defender Calvin Castagner and sophomore midfielder Kevin Crowley. Receiving PNCLL All-Conference honourable mentions were junior midfielder Patrick Corrigan (Burnaby) and sophomore defender Matt Brascia (Coquitlam).

## Field Fun Day draws 160 participants

By: Cliff Pascas

In July the BCLA hosted a 2-day development camp in Delta, BC. The camp was geared to attract new members to field lacrosse. Originally planned to be girl's field lacrosse (Under-19 & Under-15 age group) development camp, plans were quickly changed to include boys in the Novice (8-10 year old) age group.

With over 200 pre-registrations the camp response was a larger than expected, but in the end there were about 160 participants of both boys and girls. Players traveled from as far away as Penticton to attend this no cost event.

The Under-19 & Under-15 age group levels are the two levels of women's field lacrosse the BCLA Field Directorate is endorsing this season. With skill levels from advanced to virtual beginner, these young ladies had a blast. Instructors were both local and from Vancouver Island to share their knowledge.

The boy's age group was targeted as a group we are looking to bolster numbers in, to help increase our membership from the ground up so to speak. Instructors for the boys were volunteer coaches as well as members of the BC Selects and Stars Under-19 program. The young players enjoyed having the U-19 players pass on their knowledge.

On day one, the event started with basic instruction and drills. During the lunch break, camp members were treated to a live Under-19 practice followed by an inter-squad scrimmage.



Karen Blake teaches women's field lacrosse skills to camp participants

This was to demonstrate the game played at a high level.

Day two for both groups included light drills and scrimmages the rest of the day.

Despite threatening weather over the course of the weekend everything went off without a hitch. Hot dogs were provided on both days and all participants had their names entered for

prizes including sticks, helmets and t-shirts. When all was done, everyone left with registration information and a big smile on their face.

As with all events like this, it could not have been held without the support of local businesses. Canada Safeway, Maple Leaf Meats, ProStock Sports, Ice Level Sports, Lacrosse Northwest and Warrior Lacrosse all came

through with donated food and prizes. A special thanks to the BCLA for its support. A big thank you to volunteer organizers Sym Smith, Andrea Jones, Colleen Fulford and Field Directorate Executive members Karen Blake-VC of Women's Field, Les Smith-VC of Youth Field who put in an unbelievable amount of work organizing this event.

## Burnaby Mountain Selects prepare for second season

By: William Howard, SFU Lacrosse Media Relations

The Burnaby Mountain Selects are preparing for another successful season after winning the Elite High School division at the Seattle Space Needle Tournament in 2006 and posting the second best overall record at the 2007 Warrior Challenge in Lancaster, California. Returning will be 17 players from the inaugural Selects team with only 7 spots available to round-out the 2007 24-man roster.

The Burnaby Mountain Selects program is designed to train players in a professional environment to best prepare them for a collegiate field lacrosse career. Admission into the program is reserved for a select group of elite student-athletes, who possess the desire to work hard and learn in a competitive team environment, while demonstrating the ability to priori-

tize their academics goals in the highest regards. Players must reside in B.C.'s Lower Mainland and be currently enrolled in grades 10, 11 or 12.

"Too often we were seeing field lacrosse take a back seat to other sports like Rep. Hockey or Metro Soccer," commented Jeff Cathrea, Co-founder, Director and Co-Head Coach of the selects development program. "We wanted to design a program for young athletes whose number one sport is field lacrosse."

The Burnaby Mountain Selects were founded in 2006 by Simon Fraser University (SFU) Lacrosse Co-Head Coaches Jeff Cathrea and Brent Hoskins and is the only program of its kind in Canada. The development program is run out of the lacrosse practice facility at SFU and the team then travels to compete against elite teams throughout North America under

Cathrea and Hoskins private company Double Deuce Athletics. Double Deuce Athletics is also the parent company of Catch 22 Lax-Training & Conditioning, the Usual Prospects Lacrosse Camps and Laxaholics Attitude & Apparel.

"Field lacrosse is the fastest growing sport at both the high school and collegiate levels in North America. Our goal is to cultivate this growth but also re-enforce the importance of academics in providing local field lacrosse athletes the opportunity to play at the next level," said Hoskins.

The application deadline for the 2007 season was July 15th with final roster selections expected to be announced in August. 2008 applications are already being accepted. All information is available on-line at [www.sfu-lacrosse.ca](http://www.sfu-lacrosse.ca).

