

Sports

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On Deck

Silver 'Canes

Ridge Meadows Atom Hurricanes brought home a silver medal from Mission Hockey Tournament on the weekend. The team fought hard all the way to the finish with four straight wins taking them to the gold medal game Sunday afternoon. The first game Friday night against Mission had a final score of 9-3 for the Hurricanes. They played Chilliwack on Saturday morning beating them 4-1. Then again Saturday night the team gained another win with a final score of 3-0 against Abbotsford.

Sunday morning proved to be a nail-biting semifinal game against Aldergrove. The Hurricanes were down 4-1, but goals by Kyle Jansson, Jacob Young and Austin Wahl tied the game. Wahl scored the game winner in a sudden-death overtime for a final score of 6-5. The Hurricanes went on to play in the gold medal round against Langley but lost and came home with the silver medal.

E-motion-al win

Poco Motion Masters ringette beat NW Vancouver 6-4. Poco opened the scoring when Elaine Esteban fired a hard shot and Cathy Zaporozan buried the rebound. The two combined again, this time with Zaporozan assisting Esteban's goal. NW Van managed to slip one in past Poco netminder Darryl Ewart but only moments later, in a perfect tic-tac-toe, Melody Berkowski hit Nicole Dinning who fed it to an open Annette Greaves who buried it to return the lead to two.

Greaves and Dinning gathered another assist each on Zaporozan's second of the night to see the home team up by three.

NW Van closed the gap before Esteban converted her own rebound for Poco. With time dwindling NW Van managed to net two more to come within one. Darilynn Butler planted herself in front of the NW Van netminder and managed to get a pass off to Laurie Bedford who had a nifty backhand shot to put Poco up by two again.



Photo submitted

The Pitt Meadows Grade 8 boys won their game against Mission 18-0 and now head to the semifinals.

No 'cakewalk' for semis-bound squad

The Pitt Meadows Marauders Grade 8 football team will play in the Handsworth Royals on Tuesday in the Lower Mainland semifinals after a shutout victory over Mission 18-0 on Monday afternoon.

The team faced sheets of freezing rain, 80-kilometre winds but this is what football is about, coach Curt Gowler said - the players have to play anytime, anywhere and place in any conditions and this is how they practice, getting conditioned to the elements and learning

to ignore the bite of the cold. "These guys had their game faces on and won the game before they even stepped on the field," Gowler commented.

According to Gowler, their win over Mission was due to some defensive restructuring and appointing Zach Buchannan the defensive captain. The game featured two incredible pass interceptions by Travis Fitzmorris, two touchdowns by Kurtis Blaine and one by Jacob Gowler. In addition, Cole While and Callum Wil-

liamson stopped everything coming down the centre of the D-line.

"They have a combined weight of 400 pounds and are nasty when it comes to their territory," Gowler related in an email.

The team was more than ready, with offensive coach Jason Delisle calling plays that stunned Mission's defence and taking Pitt from our own 20-yard line, right to the end zone with a touchdown. Brandon Stewart won the game MVP by winning the Hammer Award.

The Marauders get a second chance to play the Handsworth Royals and this is great for Pitt, according to Gowler, because they know how they run, who always runs the ball and where they run the ball.

"It won't be a cakewalk for sure - we have to outcoach them, outplay them, get under their skin, wear them out and protect our outsides," Gowler commented. "We have restructured our whole D line just for them so we are in for an exciting football game."

No off-season for local rider

Jean Ann McKirdy, 25 (pictured), of the Local Ride Elite Women's Team, has been making waves on two wheels this fall in what is normally the elite-level cyclist's off-season.

After the Maple Ridge resident decided only weeks ago to try her legs at track cycling, she found success in her first races at the Burnaby Velodrome when she won the women's 25-lap tempo race last Friday night.

Only a week before, she was put through the paces during a National Team Development Training Camp at Burnaby's 200-metre indoor cycling track, where the overseeing coaches recognized her talent.

She has since been selected to join the Canadian National Team at a high performance training camp in Los Angeles, Calif., next week.

Track is now McKirdy's fourth competitive cycling discipline, of which her main passion is cross-country mountain biking, although the skilled and powerful rider has seen success in the road and cyclocross discipline as well. In fact, she is currently leading the B.C. Cup Cyclocross Series with only one race to go. The easygoing and soft-spoken McKirdy obviously lets her legs do the talking.

People have also been talking about her legs, evidenced by the fact that she will be presented with the Cycling B.C. Award for Top Female Cross Country Mountain Biker of the Year at the Cycling B.C. Awards Night in Vancouver on Nov. 20.



Photo submitted

Locals climbing Mountain

Coached by Simon Fraser University men's lacrosse co-head coaches Jeff Cathrea and Brent Hoskins, the Burnaby Mountain Selects Freshmen and Sophomore elite fall touring teams travelled to Charlotte, N.C. to compete at the Charlotte Fall Lacrosse Classic Oct. 31 on Nov. 1, 2009.

The Burnaby Mountain Selects teams played at the Charlotte Fall Classic in Charlotte, N.C.

The Selects combined to post a 7-4 record against top club teams from Florida, Georgia, Illinois, North Carolina and South Carolina. The Freshmen Selects went 5-1 to place second in the tournament's Rising Stars Division while the Sophomore Selects went 2-3 and reached the classic division semifinal.

In five games, the Sophomore Selects, which includes Maple Ridge's Lyndon Knuttila and Sam Weselowski, registered 31 goals for with 34 goals against. They entered Sunday's championship round as the No. 7 seed before upsetting the No. 2 seed North Carolina's Battlelax to reach the classic division semifinal.

The Burnaby Mountain team lost to the Carolina Colts 11-5 and to Team Florida 6-5 in overtime. They then won two games: 12-4 against the Copperheads Orange from Georgia and 7-6 against North Carolina's Battlelax in the quarterfinal pushing them into the semifinal.

The Burnaby team faced the Triangle Select White in the semifinal but lost 7-2.

The Burnaby Mountain Selects combined to outscore their opponents 91-54.

The Burnaby Mountain Selects Field Lacrosse Program is an amateur sports organization designed to train players in a high performance environment to best prepare them for a collegiate field lacrosse career. There are currently six players from Maple Ridge on various Selects teams.

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