

## Canadians in the NCAA 2011 – Week 2

February 18, 2011 by J.P. (Jason) Donville

It's still early in the season, but if there has been an emerging trend in the NCAA so far this season it has been the jump in the number of low scoring games relative to past years. Yes, there were a couple of lop sided wins in Div I this past week but Ohio State's 4-3 win over Detroit and Hofstra's 6-3 win over Colgate may be the beginning of something new – but let's hope not! Overall, the Canadian's in Div I were fairly quiet this week with Adams, Diachenko, Houtby, Moore, Brownell and Fehr having the biggest impact in a week where admittedly most teams were not playing. Div II and Div III were even quieter. Nonetheless, there were a few performances worth noting.

### **Detroit – Mercy has been busy in February**

Detroit – Mercy is 0-3 at this point in the season but two of the three losses were by fairly respectable scores including a 4-3 loss to Ohio State and a 9-6 loss to Bellarmine. A couple of Canadians playing for Detroit are off to a great start with rookie Shayne Adams (St Catharines) leading the team in scoring with 5 goals and LSM Jordan Houtby (St Catharines) already credited with 21 ground balls and 12 caused turnovers. Delaware's Nick Diachenko (Courtice) has also had a great start to the year with 2 goals in each of Delaware's first 2 games while rookie Dan Keane (Elora) scored twice in a victory over Presbyterian. Jesse Fehr (Calgary) has moved from Harvard to Duke and scored a goal and an assist in his debut with the Blue Devils while Jay Card (Caledon) scored a goal and an assist in the Pride's win over Colgate. Bellarmine goalie Dillon Ward (Oakville) picked up his first win of the season for Bellarmine and Robert Morris stalwarts Trevor Moore (Port Coquitlam), Kevin Brownell (Burlington) and Kiel Matisz (Stoney Creek) collectively scored 6 goals and 3 assists in a 14 to 11 loss to North Carolina.

### **What should we expect from the Canucks in Division II this year?**

From a Canadian lacrosse perspective Division II promises to be quite interesting in 2011 as several teams boast large contingents of Canadians on their rosters. While rosters are still being finalized, it appears that there will be at least 69 Canadians playing in Div II this year, a 44% jump over 2010. Like last week's commentary on Div I, this week I will review the Div II teams that boast a large contingent of Canadians on their roster as well as identify what I believe are emerging blue-chip players and potential high-impact rookies.

### **There are five Div II Teams with a Canadian Pedigree That Are worth Following In 2011**

**Mercyhurst Lakers** – Mercyhurst enter 2011 with a massive chip on their shoulder having been left out of the Div II playoffs in 2010 despite having one of the best records in the nation. This year, the Lakers are projected as the #3 team in the USILA preseason poll and boast a roster that includes nine Canadians. Cam McLean (Victoria) led this group in scoring last year with 23 goals and Kyle Kallay (Orangeville) added 19 goals and 5 assists – and both are expected to step it up in 2011. Waiting in the wings are Zac Reid (St Catharines), J.A MacDougall (Brantford) and Kyle Lindsay (Whitby) who will all fight for more playing time in 2011 while high impact rookies such as Matt Hummel (Kitchener) and Brady Heseltine (Elora) will look to crack the starting line-up in their first year.

**Limestone Saints** – Limestone is ranked one position behind Mercyhurst in the USILA poll at #4 and are led by a couple of west coast attackmen who have a great inside game. In 2010, Riley Loewen (Burnaby) scored 28 goals and added 8 assists as a freshman while Jackson Decker (Port Moody) scored 15 goals and also added 9 assists. Todd Kozak (Mississauga) will also look to raise his scoring totals in 2011 and

Remington Steele (Dallas) will hope to see more playing time between the pipes. There are ten Canadians on the Limestone roster and rookie Mike Power (Whitby) has a chance to crack the starting line-up on defense.

**Mars Hill Lions** – Mars Hill is ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the USILA poll but with 13 Canadians in the line-up, they will be looking to fight their way higher. At the top of the roster are three Canadians that are among the best players in Div II lacrosse. On the offensive side of center, Ty Farmer (Calgary) and Eric Benesch (Bloomingdale) scored a combined 66 goals in 2010 and both will play attack this year. On defense, Chris Cudmore (Whitby) is the best LSM in Div II. Backing up this trio is a strong supporting Canadian cast that includes T.J.Cowx (Delta), Kiernan Limming (Victoria), Cade Zulak (Ajax) and goalie Spencer Stobbe (Edmonton). Last but not least, rookie defenseman David Beaumont (New Westminster) is 6'4" and weighs 210 lbs and has made a great first impression with his coach and could be a starter at close defense.

**Seton Hill Griffons**– Seton Hill moved into the ECC (the toughest conference in Div II) in 2010 and posted a 6-4 record in conference play and a 10-4 record overall. In 2011 the Griffons will look to expand on that record with James Delaney (Vancouver), who scored 25 goals as a rookie, helping lead the charge. Other Canadians in the mix include Matt "Moose" Bertrand (Oakville) and Brandon Ree (Barrie) and rookies Ethan Garland (Victoria), Matt Delmonico (Port Moody) and Dylan Lefebvre (Regina).

**Dominican College Chargers** – Is by no means a powerhouse in Division II lacrosse. That said this team has four outstanding Canadian lacrosse players, all of whom hail from the prairies and are in their senior year. Alex Jones (St Albert), who scored 39 goals last year for Dominican and played for Holland at last summer's World Lacrosse Championships in England (where he was voted to the All-World all star team), leads this pack of "Prairie Dogs". Jones is backed up by fellow St Albert native Dave Marrese who grabbed 46 ground balls and 18 caused turnovers in 2010 and is arguably one of the better long poles in Division II. Jesse Peterson (Saskatoon) is also a gamer and scored 19 goals and added 18 assists in 2010 while Tyler Douglas will look to expand upon the four goals he scored last year. Talented rookie Chris Delaney (Port Coquitlam) should also see some playing time this year.

#### **Emerging stars in Div II – Who will be the next Leblanc or Rubisch?**

Two of the highest impact players to enter professional lacrosse over the past two years were Stephan Leblanc and Kyle Rubisch, both Div II stars and both recently added to Team Canada for the upcoming World Box Championships in Prague. As such, NLL and MLL scouts who are looking for talented players should not overlook Div II lacrosse. Here are six players who are putting up big numbers in Div II and deserve a closer look from fans and scouts alike.

**Chris Cudmore – Mars Hill** – Cudmore is an extremely versatile player that can play outstanding transition offence and defense which is one of the great strengths of the Canadian game. Cudmore was the only Canadian named to the preseason All American First Team and was also selected as one of four finalists for Div II player of the year. Cudmore is in his junior year.

**Alex Jones – Dominican College** – Jones, who is a senior, has outstanding NCAA numbers but it was his performance at last year's World Championships in Manchester, England that showed that he can play at the highest levels. Jones is extremely fast and agile for a big man and his 39 goals and 56 ground balls are evidence that he can play anywhere on the field.

**Ty Farmer – Mars Hill** – Farmer is one of the most explosive scorers in Div II lacrosse with 34 goals from the midfield last year. In 2011, Farmer will likely move to attack where he will work the two man game with fellow Canuck Eric Benesch who scored 32 goals in 2010. Farmer was voted to the preseason All American Second Team for 2011. Ty Farmer is in his senior year.

**Braden Artem – Catawba** - In his first two seasons, Braden Artem (Acton) scored 66 goals and 19 assists. While not huge, Artem is quick, has great hands and terrific off ball moves. Artem and teammate Marty Tuohy have a great chemistry and both should put up big numbers once again this year.

**Dave Marrese – Dominican College** – Is Dave Marrese the next Matt Vinc? For lacrosse trivia buffs, Vinc played long pole at Canisius while his box career has been strictly between the pipes. Marrese has a similar story playing defense for Dominican College and goalie for the St Albert Miners. In 2010, Marrese grabbed 46 ground balls and 18 caused turnovers and he will be a key player for Dominican in 2011 as it tries to move up in the very difficult ECC pecking order.

#### **The Top Canadian Rookie in Div II in 2011 Might Not Be a Goal Scorer**

As mentioned earlier, the NCAA Div II has seen a huge jump in the number of Canadians featured on rosters with several rookies likely to make a big impact in 2011. Interestingly, while there is definitely offensive fire-power in this group, several of the highest impact players amongst the Canadians in Div II are defensemen. Here are my picks for the six rookies that could have the greatest impact in Div II in 2011.

**Matt Hummel – Attack - (Mercyhurst/Kitchener)** - Hummel scored 29 goals and 26 assists for the Kitchener Waterloo Braves Jr A Team in 2010 and he will be a strong addition to what is already a solid Mercyhurst line-up. The only question is whether he will play this year or red-shirt in 2011. However, once he gets on the field, there is no doubt that Hummel can score.

**Mike Triolo – Defense – (Pfeiffer/Toronto)** - At 6’8” Triolo might be the tallest lacrosse player in the NCAA in 2011. In addition to his obvious size, Triolo also has decent hands (12 goals and 13 assists in 21 games for the Toronto Beaches Jr A). Triolo has traditionally been an LSM but will likely play close defense this year.

**Danny McDermott – Defense – (NYIT/Vancouver)** – The 2011 freshman classes is loaded with great defensive players and Danny McDermott is near the top of that list. McDermott was voted to the All Canadian Team at the 2010 U19 National Championships and he has both the size and speed to be an impact player in Div II.

**Carson Barton – Midfield – (Grand Canyon/Edmonton)** – There is no doubt that Barton is among the better lacrosse players in Alberta but at last year’s Minto Cup Barton showed that he can play with the best lacrosse players in Canada. A product of the St Francis Xavier prep program, Barton should get decent playing time as a freshman.

**Brady Heseltine – Attack (Mercyhurst/Elora)** – Yep, another Elora kid! Elora almost won the Ontario Junior B Box Championship in 2010 and Heseltine was second in playoff scoring for the team with 25 goals and 18 assist in 43 games. Heseltine has good size and speed in addition to high-end stick skills and should find his way into the starting roster at Mercyhurst fairly quickly.

**Robert Hope – Midfield (Pfeiffer/Peterborough)** – It is hard to figure out exactly where Bob Hope will play this year but wherever it is, he is likely to have a big impact. In Peterborough, he plays defense but still managed to score 12 points last year but there exists some possibility that Hope could play attack at Pfeiffer this year. Regardless, we think this kid’s versatility, size and skill will allow him to quickly find a starting spot on the Pfeiffer roster.

**What’s new with the Clan?**

The Simon Fraser Clan, which play in the MCLA Div I are off to a strong start with a 15-5 victory over Western Washington University Vikings out of Bellingham. SFU had a large contingent of its team from 2010 graduate so it remains to be seen how good the 2011 team will be – so far, so good! Colton Dow (Coquitlam) and Rick Bezuidenhout (Campbell River) led the Clan with five points each in their season opening win. SFU’s next couple of games are on the road against Utah and BYU. Good luck Clans!

**Games upcoming**

This weekend there are a few games that may be of interest to Canadians who don’t mind driving 4 hours to watch a lacrosse game. On Saturday, Binghamton plays at Penn State, Hobart plays at Robert Morris and North Carolina plays at Ohio State. For lacrosse fans in Quebec, Vermont hosts Colgate while Ontario fans should consider the double header in Syracuse on Sunday starting at 1:00PM with Denver vs. Syracuse followed by Air Force vs. Siena at 4PM. Both games will be played in the Carrier Dome.

**NCAA Div II - Canadian Players - 2011 - Preliminary**

Rank	School	Player	Hometown	Year	Position
1	American Int.	Nick Amendt	Ponoka	Freshman	Midfield
2	American Int.	Eric Whettel	La Salle	Junior	Goalie
3	American Int.	Dan MacIassac	Port Perry	Senior	Midfield
4	Catawba	Braden Artem	Acton	Junior	Attack
5	Catawba	Michael Pecchia	Coquitlam	Junior	Goalie
6	Chestnut Hill	Mike Melnychenko	St. Catharines	Freshman	Attack
7	Chestnut Hill	Shane Morlock	Whitby	Sophomore	Attack
8	Chestnut Hill	Mark Lively	Anmore	Sophomore	Attack
9	Dominican Coll.	Dave Marrese	St Albert	Senior	Defence
10	Dominican Coll.	Alex Jones	St Albert	Senior	Midfield
11	Dominican Coll.	Jesse Peterson	Saskatoon	Senior	Midfield
12	Dominican Coll.	Tyler Douglas	St Albert	Senior	Midfield
13	Dominican Coll.	Chris Delaney	Port Coquitlam)	Freshman	Midfield
14	Dowling	Jacob Harding	Georgetown	Freshman	Attack
15	Dowling	Stephen Bourden	Clarington	Sophomore	Defence
16	Grand Canyon	Carson Barton	Edmonton	Freshman	Midfield
17	Lake Erie	Trevor Tarte	Amherstburg	Freshman	Attack
18	Lake Erie	Bal Keegan	Coquitlam	Sophomore	Attack
19	Lees-McRae	Landon Young	Saskatoon	Senior	Midfield
20	Limestone	Allen Rajin	Victoria	Freshman	Midfield
21	Limestone	Todd Nakasuji	Ajax	Freshman	Attack
22	Limestone	Brendan Shea	Maple Ridge	Freshman	Attack
23	Limestone	Mike Power	Whitby	Freshman	Defence
24	Limestone	Jackson Decker	Port Moody	Junior	Attack
25	Limestone	Shayne Jackson	Bowmanville	Junior	Attack

26	Limestone	Remington Steele	Dallas	Senior	Goalie
27	Limestone	Riley Loewen	Burnaby	Sophomore	Attack
28	Limestone	Tor Reinholdt	Port Moody	Sophomore	Midfield
29	Limestone	Todd Kozak	Mississauga	Sophomore	Attack
30	Mars Hill	David Veitch	Windsor	Freshman	Defence
31	Mars Hill	Adam Zulak	Ajax	Freshman	Attack
32	Mars Hill	David Beaumont	New Westminster	Freshman	Defence
33	Mars Hill	Mark Burnett	Pickering	Senior	Defence
34	Mars Hill	Eric Benesch	Bloomingtondale	Senior	Attack
35	Mars Hill	Ty Farmer	Calgary	Senior	Midfield
36	Mars Hill	Chris Cudmore	Whitby	Junior	Defence
37	Mars Hill	T.J.Cowx	Delta	Junior	Midfield
38	Mars Hill	Kiernan Limming	Victoria	Junior	Defence
39	Mars Hill	Cade Zulak	Ajax	Junior	Midfield
40	Mars Hill	Zach Tomkinson	Barrie	Sophomore	Midfield
41	Mars Hill	Chad Howson	Newmarket	Junior	Midfield
42	Mars Hill	Spencer Stobbe	Edmonton	Junior	Goalie
43	Mars Hill	Blake Mattinson	Coquitlam	Junior	Midfield
44	Mercyhurst	Mitch McAvoy	Sherwood Park	Freshman	Midfield
45	Mercyhurst	Matt Hummel	Kitchener	Freshman	Midfield
46	Mercyhurst	Matt Eckert	Owen Sound	Freshman	Midfield
47	Mercyhurst	Brady Heseltine	Elora	Freshman	Attack
48	Mercyhurst	Cameron McLean	Victoria	Senior	Midfield
49	Mercyhurst	Kyle Kallay	Orangeville	Junior	Attack
50	Mercyhurst	Kyle Lindsay	Whitby	Sophomore	Midfield
51	Mercyhurst	J.A. MacDougall	Brantford	Junior	Midfield
52	Mercyhurst	Zac Reid	St Catherines	Sophomore	Midfield
53	Notre Dame (CA)	Brandon Miller	Calgary	Senior	Defence
54	NYIT	Danny McDermott	Vancouver	Freshman	Defence
55	NYIT	Jake Ryan	Victoria	Sophomore	Midfield
56	Pfeiffer	Tom Buckley	Edmonton	Freshman	Midfield
57	Pfeiffer	James Sheppard	St. John	Freshman	Attack
58	Pfeiffer	Mike Triolo	Toronto	Freshman	Defence
59	Pfeiffer	Robert Hope	Peterborough	Freshman	Midfield
60	Pfeiffer	Mitch Robertson	Whitby	Freshman	Midfield
61	Pfeiffer	Swan Skidders	Akwesasne	Junior	Attack
62	Queens/NC	Cory Kloepfer	Gilford	Sophomore	Midfield
63	Queens/NC	Ross Radcliffe	Nanaimo	Freshman	Midfield
64	Seton Hill	Ethan Garland	Victoria	Freshman	Midfield
65	Seton Hill	Matt Delmonico	Port Moody	Freshman	Attack
66	Seton Hill	Dylan Lefebvre	Regina	Freshman	Attack
67	Seton Hill	James Delaney	Vancouver	Sophomore	Midfield
68	Seton Hill	Matt Bertrand	Oakville	Junior	Midfield
69	St Andrews	Brandon Ree	Barrie	Junior	Defence

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Source: Team Websites