

sports

Posse on the hunt for field lacrosse titles

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For four years, the Northern Sport Centre has enabled athletes to take their outdoor pursuits indoors and Bill Barwise is eternally thankful.

Without that fieldhouse, the Prince George coach wouldn't likely be taking two field lacrosse teams outdoors to the Tier 2 provincial championships, which start today in Burnaby.

The Prince George Posse U-16 and U-19 teams are made up for 38 athletes from Prince George, Kitimat-Terrace and the North Okanagan region. The Prince George and Terrace-Kitimat players met last weekend. This weekend's games will mark the first time all the Interior players have been together.

Some of them played together with the Interior U-16 team in December in Seattle at the Space Needle Shootout tournament. Those players started practicing in August on the Prince George Women's Soccer Association field



Pierce Watson, centre, shown in action for the Prince George Posse U-16 team at the Space Needle Shootout field lacrosse tournament in December in Seattle, leads his Posse team into the Tier 2 provincial championship that starts today in Burnaby.

Photo submitted

and played a few exhibition games in Penticton in late October.

"We had enough interest for two teams," said Barwise. "We have a pool of 50 kids to work with."

"On the U-16 team, this group has played field [lacrosse] for

three years now and they are learning the game quite quickly.

The boys are understanding the game and their desire to play and compete is shown by the fact we have 38 boys registered, up from 22 only one year ago."

The 18-member U-16 Posse team will be made up of Prince George and Kitimat-Terrace players only. One of that group, Pierce Watson of Prince George, was a late cut of the provincial U-16 team. Defensive specialist Miguel DaSilva of Prince George played this season for the Burnaby Mountain Selects and is one of the team leaders.

Six Prince George players Nathaniel McFadyen, Danton Nicholson, Zack Thompson, Cole Paciejewski, Morgan Bloom and Dylan Long — are part of the 17-player U-19 team.

"I've got a real mixed bag on the U-19 team this year, some real strong (field) players from the north Okanagan and some real strong box players from up here," said Barwise. "They've never played together and it will be interesting to see how well they play together and how well they adjust. They U-16s probably play a more sound game, because they're used to it and more of the strategy comes out."

The growth of field lacrosse in the U.S. college ranks is creating

scholarship opportunities for Canadians in the sport, and one member of the Interior U-19 team — Paciejewski — is close to signing with an NCAA team, most likely Tennessee.

"Cole is pretty close to heading to the States to play next year," said Barwise. "He scored quite well in his SATs. Another Prince George player, Conrad Chapman, is going to Robert Morris, a Division 1 school, in the fall."

"Field lacrosse is a lot bigger down in the States but our skills are every bit as strong. A few of the boys went to a recruiting camp in the Lower Mainland and that's where Cole got the interest (from NCAA teams). I'll be sending quite a few of the boys there this summer to try to get their names out there."

The Prince George U-16s open their tournament today at 3 p.m. against the Coquitlam Adanacs. The Posse U-19s take on Ridge Meadows tonight at 7:30.

"They've improved an awful lot, but I'm not going down there with any expectations because our actual tournament game play hasn't been there," said Barwise.

Cardinals ace needs surgery, done for the season

The Associated Press

Adam Wainwright's season is over before it started.

The St. Louis Cardinals ace learned Thursday that he will need surgery to replace a torn ulnar collateral ligament in his pitching elbow, an injury that usually take at least a year to recover from.

"That's a big guy to miss," teammate Kyle Lohse said in Jupiter, Fla. "We still got to go out there and play. Nobody is going to feel sorry for us. We still have to go out there and do our jobs."

The 29-year-old right-hander experienced soreness toward the end of last season and didn't pitch in

September. He threw to the Cardinals' top hitter in batting practice Monday and was set to start his team's spring training opener, then felt soreness the following day and was sent back to St. Louis on Wednesday for an examination.

Lewis Yocum then gave a second opinion to Wainwright, who won 19 games in 2009 and 20 last year to earn a second-place finish in NL Cy Young Award voting. St. Louis will search for a fifth starter to go along with Chris Carpenter, Lohse, Jaime Garcia and Jake Westbrook.

"You're losing an ace," Cardinals general manager John Mozeliak said. "It's not something you can replace overnight. I would also say we

have four quality pitchers. It's not exactly like we have no bullets left."

In Glendale, Ariz., pitcher Vicente Padilla is expected to return to the Dodgers' spring training facility after having surgery on his right arm in Los Angeles.

Doctors freed up a nerve that was trapped by a muscle. Dodgers manager Don Mattingly says Padilla faces three to four weeks of rehabilitation. Neither Mattingly nor Dodgers general manager Ned Colletti had a timetable for when Padilla, a projected reliever, would be ready to go to work.

Padilla made 16 starts last season and finished 6-5 with a 4.07 ERA. He also spent 68 games on

the disabled list with elbow soreness and a neck injury.

In Lakeland, Fla., Miguel Cabrera arrived at spring training for the first time since he was arrested last week on suspicion of drunken driving. He promptly apologized as Major League Baseball said he will undergo treatment set up by doctors administered by management and its players' union.

The 27-year-old was arrested Feb. 16 on suspicion of driving under the influence and resisting an officer without violence, both misdemeanours. He is set to be arraigned on March 16.

In Surprise, Ariz., Texas Rangers pitcher Brandon Webb threw 60-

65 pitches off flat ground during a 17-minute session. Texas manager Ron Washington said the "ball was coming out of his hand real good."

The Rangers decided they wanted the right-hander to build up arm strength before getting back on a mound after his short bullpen session during the first workout a week ago. The former NL Cy Young Award winner hasn't pitched in a major league game since the 2009 opener for Arizona because of shoulder surgery.

Washington says Webb's arm strength "is certainly picking up" and that he could throw off a mound Sunday or Monday "if everything keeps progressing."

Harvey seventh

OSLO, Norway (CP) — A broken ski pole knocked Canada's Alex Harvey out of medal contention in the men's sprint Thursday at the nordic world championships.

Harvey was poised to advance to the final until a Swiss skier stepped on his pole, dropping the 22-year-old back into seventh spot.

Two-time Olympic champion Marcus Hellner of Sweden held off home favourite Petter Northug to win the 1.5-kilometre race.

Local SPORTS TODAY

To place information in our daily Citizen sports calendar, or to keep Prince George and area up to date on results, fax The Citizen sports department at 562-7453 or e-mail us at: sports@pgcitizen.ca

- BASKETBALL:** North Central zone double-A boys championship continues at College Heights secondary school. Games at 11 a.m., 12:45, 6, 7:45 p.m. Junior A girls zone championship continues at 10 a.m., Prince George secondary school. Heather Park Open elementary school tournament starts at 8:45 a.m., at Heather Park middle school.
- CURLING:** Prince George Golf and Curling Club ladies bonspiel starts at PGGCC.
- INDOOR SOCCER:** B.C. Indoor League co-ed games start at 7 p.m., Northern Sport Centre.



AUTO RACING: NASCAR Camping World Truck Phoenix, 5 p.m., Speed (Cable 41).

CURLING: Scotties Tournament of Hearts, 10:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m., TSN (Cable 22).

LOCAL SCENE

Shooter's Pub P.G. Rec Hockey

Wednesday results

RiversEdge Services	6
DWB Forestry/Westcan Projects Sculptins	3
Subway/RE Max Capitals 8 Summit/Shooters	7
CHP Whalers 9 Players Bench Oilers	2

Glass Express Gentleman's Hockey

Alpine Pub/Chatters Animalz	9
Datoff Ice Dogs	4
WIC WARHOGS	9
AB Auto Electric Hornets	6

P.G. Women Basketball

Tuesday results

Aleza	68
101.3 The River	30
Up The Creek	66
Sinnin' Crew	71

(UTC: Josie Dunsdon 21, Jordan King 11 - SC: Laura Foster 21, Celina Moore 11, Lella Abubakan 11)

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