

Canadians in the NCAA – Week 5

March 8, 2011 by J.P. (Jason) Donville

Friday Night Lights

Last Friday night before a crowd of close to 15,000 lacrosse fans, Syracuse (resplendent in their retro uniforms) and Virginia put on one heck of a lacrosse game which in the end could only have one victor and that was Syracuse. Both teams appeared a little tight in the first quarter but thereafter it was a game filled with superb goaltending, relentless checking, terrific team offence and defense and the extraordinary performance of one player in particular, Tim Desko who scored 5 goals for the Orange. Of course the Syracuse/Virginia match was a very nice lead-in to another great weekend of NCAA lacrosse that saw important games played throughout the weekend. Canadian laxers played a prominent role in a number of these games with Lincoln, Card, McBride, Noble, Matthews, Webster, Adams, Loewen, Sheppard, Pantelone, Beard, Johnston, and Boissoneault having particularly noteworthy performances. Here's my recap of the week that was from a Canadian lacrosse perspective.

NCAA Div I - How About the New kids on the block! – Webster, Mawdsley, Bremner, Noble and Adams

The Syracuse vs. Virginia game was clearly the highlight of a weekend packed with important games and in that context it is worth footnoting that Stephen Keogh (Toronto) scored twice for Syracuse and Mark Cockerton (Oshawa) scored once for Virginia. Another important game saw Hofstra, which is now ranked #4 in the USILA Coaches Poll defeat Harvard 15-9 with Jaime Lincoln (St Catharines) scoring 5 goals and adding an assist while Jay Card (Caledon) added 3 goals, 3 assists and 4 GB's. Stony Brook, which is ranked 2 places behind Hofstra at #6 beat Marist 13 to 7 with Jordan McBride (Stony Brook) scoring 4 goals and an assist along with 2GBs and a CT, while Kevin Crowley (New Westminster) had a hat trick to go with 3 GB's. Cornell University came up against a tough goalie at West Point losing to Army 11 to 9. Cody Bremner (Victoria) scored a pair of goals in the loss while Jason Noble (Orangeville) grabbed 9 GB's and a 3 CT's in defeat. Denver had a couple of high scoring matches on the weekend. In the first game Denver defeated Jacksonville 20 to 8 with Mark Matthews (Oshawa) scoring 3 goals, 5 assists, 3 GB's and a CT, while Cam Flint (Georgetown) had a pair of goals and Jeremy Noble (Orangeville) scored his first NCAA goal while also grabbing 8 GB's. In the second game, Denver romped over Manhattan 17-6 with Matthew's scoring 4 goals, 2 assists and adding 4 GB's and a CT – Flint and Noble each scored singles. At Quinnipiac, rookie Dylan Webster (Brampton) had a breakout game scoring 3 goals and an assist while adding 3 GB's and a CT as the Bobcats won their first game of the season over Holy Cross. Travis Comeau (Red Deer) also had a big game on the weekend as Georgetown defeated St John's with Comeau scoring a hat trick while grabbing 2 GB's and a CT. Mike Mawdsley (Innisfil) continues to hold a hot hand, scoring a hat trick in Sacred Heart's loss to Dartmouth while Shayne Adams (St Catharines) scored 4 goals, 1 GB and 2 CT's in a 13 to 9 loss to Lehigh.

NCAA Div II – Rookies Shining in Div II as Well – Check out Delaney, Sheppard and Melnychenko

Arguably the most important game played in Div II so far this year was the match between then #2 Le Moyne and # 4 Limestone this past Sunday. In the end, Limestone prevailed with a 11 to 9 victory. Leading the Saints was Riley Loewen (Burnaby) who scored 5 goals and grabbed 5 GB's while teammates Shayne Jackson (Bowmanville) added a goal, five assists and a GB and Jackson Decker (Port Moody) who contributed 2 goals and 2 GB's. Number 2 ranked Mercyhurst showed its prowess over the weekend by handling undefeated Mars Hill 12 to 6. Kyle Kallay (Orangeville) had a hat trick while Zac Reid (St Catharines) added 2 goals, 2 GB's and a CT. Chris Cudmore (Whitby) grabbed 5 GB's and 2 CT's for Mars Hill. Pfeiffer now boasts a record of 4-1 and is one of the biggest surprises in college lacrosse so far this season. Rookie James Sheppard (St John) continues to put up huge numbers and last week he scored 5

goals and an assist while grabbing 9 GB's and a CT in a win over Lake Erie while teammate Bob Hope (Peterborough) scored a goal and 4 assists. Dominican College lost its season opener by a goal to Franklin Pierce but rookie Chris Delaney (Port Coquitlam) had an impressive debut with 4 goals and 6 GB's.

In this week's statistical snap-shot we look at Division II scoring leaders. Jackson and Loewen lead the group with Farmer and Benesch not far behind and both pairings appear to be developing a chemistry not unlike Crowley and McBride at Stony Brook. Rookies Chris Delaney and James Sheppard are quickly emerging as two of the bigger offensive threats in Div II lacrosse.

Canadian Scoring Leaders - Div II - As of Mar 6/2011

Rank	Player	School	Hometown	GM	G	A	Pts	PPG
1	Shayne Jackson	Limestone	Bowmanville	4	6	20	26	6.5
2	Riley Loewen	Limestone	Burnaby	4	17	3	20	5.0
3	Ty Farmer	Mars Hill	Calgary	4	15	5	20	5.0
4	Chris Delaney	Dominican Coll.	PoCo	1	4	0	4	4.0
5	James Sheppard	Pfeiffer	St. John	5	18	2	20	4.0
6	Eric Benesch	Mars Hill	Bloomington	4	6	9	15	3.8
7	Kyle Kallay	Mercyhurst	Orangeville	2	6	1	7	3.5
8	Mike Melnychenko	Chestnut Hill	St. Catharines	3	8	2	10	3.3
9	Braden Artem	Catawba	Acton	4	10	2	12	3.0
10	Cameron McLean	Mercyhurst	Victoria	2	1	4	5	2.5
11	James Delaney	Seton Hill	PoCo	3	5	2	7	2.3
12	T.J.Cowx	Mars Hill	Delta	4	3	6	9	2.3
13	Mat Thompson	Florida So.	Akwesasne	6	11	2	13	2.2
14	Jesse Peterson	Dominican Coll.	Saskatoon	1	1	1	2	2.0
15	Jackson Decker	Limestone	Port Moody	4	6	2	8	2.0
16	Zac Reid	Mercyhurst	St Catharines	2	4	0	4	2.0
17	Dylan Lefebvre	Seton Hill	Regina	3	5	1	6	2.0
18	Robert Hope	Pfeiffer	Peterborough	5	3	6	9	1.8
19	Shane Morlock	Chestnut Hill	Whitby	3	2	3	5	1.7
20	Matt Delmonico	Seton Hill	Port Moody	3	1	4	5	1.7
21	Todd Nakasuji	Limestone	Ajax	3	2	2	4	1.3
22	Trevor Tarte	Lake Erie	Amherstburg	1	1	0	1	1.0
23	Tor Reinholdt	Limestone	Port Moody	2	1	1	2	1.0
24	Zach Tomkinson	Mars Hill	Barrie	4	1	3	4	1.0
25	Ethan Garland	Seton Hill	Victoria	3	1	2	3	1.0

The "Impact" leaders in Div II are dominated by two long poles that play at Mars Hill. At the start of the year Chris Cudmore was touted as one of four finalists for 'player of the year' in Division II and so far has lived up to his advanced billing. Mark Burnett (Pickering) has simply been a positive surprise. Offensive players with great defensive stats include Ty Farmer, James Sheppard and Riley Loewen.

Canadian "Impact" Leaders In Div II - As of Mar 6/2011

Rank	Player	School	Hometown	GM	G	A	GB	CT	IPG
1	Chris Cudmore	Mars Hill	Whitby	4	1	0	22	13	12.25
2	Mark Burnett	Mars Hill	Pickering	4	0	0	12	15	10.50
3	Ty Farmer	Mars Hill	Calgary	4	15	5	9	3	8.75

4	James Sheppard	Pfeiffer	St. John	5	18	2	18	1	8.00
5	Shayne Jackson	Limestone	Bowmanville	4	6	20	3	0	7.25
6	Riley Loewen	Limestone	Burnaby	4	17	3	9	0	7.25
7	Braden Artem	Catawba	Acton	4	10	2	9	4	7.25
8	Mike Melnychenko	Chestnut Hill	St Catharines	3	8	2	11	0	7.00
9	Eric Benesch	Mars Hill	Bloomingtondale	4	6	9	2	5	6.75
10	Cameron McLean	Mercyhurst	Victoria	2	1	4	4	1	5.50
11	T.J.Cowx	Mars Hill	Delta	4	3	6	7	2	5.00
12	Dylan Lefebvre	Seton Hill	Regina	3	5	1	9	0	5.00
13	Brandon Ree	St Andrews	Barrie	6	3	2	11	5	4.33
14	Chris Delaney	Dominican C.	PoCo	1	4	0	0	0	4.00
15	Kyle Kallay	Mercyhurst	Orangeville	2	6	1	1	0	4.00
16	Zac Reid	Mercyhurst	St Catharines	2	4	0	2	1	4.00
17	Dave Marrese	Dominican C.	St Albert	1	0	0	4	0	4.00
18	Robert Hope	Pfeiffer	Peterborough	5	3	6	6	2	3.80
19	Mike Triolo	Pfeiffer	Toronto	5	0	1	11	3	3.60
20	Jackson Decker	Limestone	Port Moody	4	6	2	4	1	3.50
21	James Delaney	Seton Hill	PoCo	3	5	2	3	0	3.33
22	Mat Thompson	Florida So.	Akwesasne	6	11	2	5	0	3.00
23	Jesse Peterson	Dominican C.	Saskatoon	1	1	1	1	0	3.00
24	Zach Tomkinson	Mars Hill	Barrie	4	1	3	4	2	3.00
25	Bal Keegan	Lake Erie	Coquitlam	1	0	0	3	0	3.00

NCAA Div III - RIT is ready for 2011

RIT is 2-0 so far this season with impressive wins over Florida Southern last Friday and over #10 ranked RPI on Saturday. In the RPI game, Jordan McIntosh (Oakville) scored 2 goals while M.J. Kiekbelt (Caledon) grabbed 4 GB's and 4 CT's. Neumann split a pair off games this week with Mike Pantelone (Aurora) scoring 5 goals in a close win over Stockton and scoring a hat trick in a loss to Frostburg State. Carthage remains the best NCAA lacrosse team in Wisconsin and last Saturday saw Keegan Bowman (New Westminster) indulge in a statistical smorgasbord scoring 5 goals and 8 assists while pouncing on 8 GBs and 3 CTs in a recent win over Millsaps. Adrian split a pair of games this week with T.J Cook (Caledon) scoring a hat trick in a win over Catholic and Tyler Tanguay (Port Colborne) producing a goal and 3 assists in a loss to Mount St Josephs. Roanoke is off to a great start at 3-0 and beat Birmingham Southern on the weekend with Richard Lachlan (Port Coquitlam) scoring 1 goal and an assist while picking up 5 GB's.

Women's Div I, II and III – Rachel Johnston named MWLC player of the week

The past week has been a busy one for our woman playing lacrosse in the NCAA. On the weekend, Detroit lost to UC Davis 21-11 with Emily Boissonneault (Brooklin) scoring 3 goals and an assist, Corina Mahorn (Whitby) scoring a pair of goals and Erin Campbell (Orangeville) adding a goal and assist in defeat. Canisius also suffered a couple of tough losses with Megan Oosting (Lakefield) scoring a goal and two assists in a loss to Stanford with goalie Allison Daley (Peterborough) making 13 saves. A few days later, Oosting and Carly Quinn (Orangeville) each scored a pair in a loss to Ohio State, while Jayme Beard (Hawkstone) scored 2 goals and 4 assists for the Buckeyes. In Division II, Sarah Oor (Uxbridge) scored a pair as Limestone defeated Shippensburg 11 to 7. In Division III, Rachel Johnston (St Catharines) scored 5 goals and an assist for Adrian in an 18-15 loss to Salisbury and was named MWLC player of the week. Emma Scheppers (Elmvale) also had a great week, scoring 2 goals while grabbing 2 GB's and a CT as Elmira defeated Morrisville State 19-3.

MCLA – Simon Fraser Split a Pair with Colorado State up Next

Simon Fraser is playing one of the toughest MCLA schedules imaginable with nine games scheduled against MCLA top 25 teams. The Clansmen split a pair of games last week which included a loss to then #7 Michigan State and a win over conference rival Boise State. SFU's next home game is this Saturday night at 7:00PM in New Westminster at Mercer Stadium against perennial power house #3 Colorado State.

Games upcoming – a Good Weekend to Go to Detroit

In terms of games close to the border, traveling lax fans have several options. On Saturday, at the Division I level, Bucknell plays at Hobart and Holy Cross plays at Colgate in Men's play while Canisius hosts Longwood in Woman's play and RIT hosts Keuka in Men's Div III action. On Sunday there is a Div I Men's/Women's double header in Detroit with Robert Morris playing the men and Duquesne playing the Woman.

Closing thoughts

Last Saturday afternoon I had the chance to play some pick up lacrosse at Six Nations with my usual group of over-aged weekend warriors. On this particular Saturday, in addition to the regular crew of masters players (over 45 years of age), several of us brought along our sons and daughters. While I have played catch with my boys since the day they received their first lacrosse stick this was the first time in my life that I had the opportunity to play in a relatively competitive game with my two sons who are 13 and 17 years old respectively. As is the case in games like this, neither team keeps score; you are just out there for the fitness, the fellowship and the love of the game. And yet, I have a feeling that I will be replaying the tape from that game in my head for a long time to come.