

Canadians in the NCAA – Week 9

April 7, 2011 by J.P. (Jason) Donville

The past week has seen a number of well contested games although upsets and therefore movement in the polls are starting to become rarer. Perhaps nothing epitomizes this more than Sunday's Big City Classic which saw three superbly played games that were all decided by narrow margins but in the end resulted in no major surprises. Indeed, for probably 50 of the 61 teams in Division I, the focus in April will be to win their respective conference and the automatic qualifier (AQ) that comes with it. "At large bids" will be reserved for teams that finish high in the polls and in Division I, schools like Johns Hopkins, Denver, Cornell, Colgate and Delaware, that are getting hot at exactly the right time of the year are best positioned to grab an at large bid if they don't in fact win their conference. Schools now on the outside looking in include Ohio State, Stony Brook, Drexel and Georgetown, all of which almost certainly will have to enter the year end NCAA lacrosse tournament through the AQ route.

In this week's edition of "The Northern Laxer" we focus our statistical magnifying glass on the rookies. Each division has a large number of rookies who are starting to garner significant playing time and having an impact on their team's respective performances. This week also represents the starting week of field lacrosse in Ontario with the Jammer Classic being the kick-off event.

The past week has seen a number of remarkable performances from rookies and upperclassmen alike with Adams, Matthews, McBride, Comeau, Lincoln, Jackson, Pecchia, Melnychenko, Buckley, Quinn, Boissoneault, and Edmonson having particularly impressive outings. Here is my recap of the week in lacrosse that was from a decidedly Canadian perspective.

Division I – Detroit ends Siena's Streak!

Detroit had one of its biggest wins in program history last week as they beat Siena 13 to 11 and ended the Saints 20 game MAAC winning streak. Shayne Adams (St. Catharines) had 2 goals while grabbing 8 GB's and Jordan Houtby (St. Catharines) added a goal, 9 GB's and 3 CT's in the victory. Denver had a big win last week over Hobart with Mark Mathews (Oshawa) leading the way with 5 goals, an assist, 8 GB's and 3 CT's, while Jeremy Noble (Orangeville) added 3 assists, 4 GB's and 3 CT's and Cam Flint (Georgetown) contributed 2 goals, an assist and a GB. Stony Brook got back into the win column this week with a 16-5 victory over UMBC. Jordan McBride (New Westminster) had a terrific day, scoring 7 goals while adding 3 GB's and Kevin Crowley (New Westminster) was also impressive adding 2 goals, 4 assists, 4 GB's and a CT. Georgetown had a clutch win over Navy last Friday evening and Travis Comeau (Red Deer) was on fire, scoring 5 goals and grabbing 2 GB's to help sink the Midshipmen. Carter Bender (Caledon) continues to have a great season as Hartford won again, this time a 9-8 win over Albany that saw Bender score twice while grabbing 4 GB's and adding a CT. Hofstra defeated Towson 12 to 5 and Jaime Lincoln (St Catharines) was impressive scoring 5 Goals and adding 2 GB's.

There are 31 Canadian Freshman in the NCAA Division I in 2011 and several are already having a significant impact on their respective teams. Most of these players saw limited playing time as the season began but are quickly becoming first or second unit players on their respective teams. Therefore these rankings can and will change rapidly as the season evolves. Under my impact rankings, a goal, assist and GB each garner 1 point, while a Caused Turnover (CT), which is relatively rare, is worth two points. Canadian Rookie Impact Leaders in Division I are presented below.

Canadian Rookie "Impact" Leaders In Div I – As of Apr 3/2011

Rank	Player	School	Hometown	GM	G	A	GB	CT	IPG
1	Jeremy Noble	Denver	Orangeville	9	6	6	42	5	7.1
2	Dylan Webster	Quinnipiac	Brampton	7	8	3	20	6	6.1
3	Shayne Adams	Detroit	St Catharines	11	27	4	22	3	5.4
4	Mike Mawdsley	Sacred Heart	Innisfil	9	18	5	17	1	4.7
5	Cameron Gardner	Bellarmino	Calgary	11	13	5	13	5	3.7
6	Dan Linter	Cornell	Courtice	2	1	0	2	1	2.5
7	Mark Cockerton	Virginia	Oshawa	9	9	1	10	1	2.4
8	Ryne Sternberg	Penn State	Toronto	8	0	0	7	6	2.4
9	Chad Mitchell	Bellarmino	Calgary	6	2	1	7	1	2
10	Jordan Tripp	Binghampton	Aurora	3	1	0	3	1	2
11	Dan Keane	Delaware	Elora	4	3	0	3	1	2
12	Tom Masterson	Detroit	London	4	0	0	8	0	2
13	Rob Hunter	Siena	Toronto	7	0	0	13	0	1.9
14	Cody Bremner	Cornell	Victoria	8	6	2	4	0	1.5
15	Bryden Pelletier	Presbyterian	Nanaimo	8	3	0	5	2	1.5
16	Ben McIntosh	Drexel	Coquitlam	10	3	2	4	2	1.3
17	Nathan Klein	UMBC	Coquitlam	6	0	0	3	2	1.2
18	Will Tanner	Jacksonville	Victoria	1	1	0	0	0	1
19	Brandon Benn	Johns Hopkins	Brampton	8	2	1	2	1	0.9
20	Conor Eustace	Hobart	Newmarket	2	0	0	1	0	0.5

Men's Division II – Tom Buckley, where have you been hiding?

This past Saturday saw #5 Mercyhurst host #3 Dowling in Erie in one of the top matchups of the Division II season. In the end, the Laker's prevailed with Kyle Kallay (Orangeville) having a big day, scoring 2 goals and an assist while grabbing 4 GB's and adding a CT. Limestone remains the #1 ranked team in Division II and had another lopsided win (24-3) this past weekend over Queens. Shayne Jackson (Bowmanville) led the way with 4 goals, 2 assists, and 4 GB's, while Jackson Decker (Port Moody) added 3 goals, an assist and a CT and Riley Loewen (Burnaby) scored 4 goals. Catawba had a big 13-9 win over Florida Southern on Saturday with Michael Pecchia (Coquitlam) once again stellar in net making 14 saves for the win while Braden Artem (Acton) added 4 goals and an assist. Chestnut Hill defeated Wheeling-Jesuit 13 to 6 and Mike Melnychenko (St Catharines) was once again sharp, scoring 5 goals and an assist while grabbing 2 GB's with Shane Morlock (Whitby) terrific in support scoring 4 goals, 2 assists and scooping 5 GB's. Mars Hill had two wins last week. In the first, Mars Hill defeated St Leo 18 to 8 with Chris Cudmore (Whitby) scoring 2 goals and an assist while grabbing 8 GB's and 3 CT's, Ty Farmer (Calgary) scoring 5 Goals and TJ Cowx (Delta) adding 3 goals and 2 assists. In the second game, Mars Hill defeated Wingate 12 to 7 with Eric Benesh (Bloomingdale) scoring 3 goals and 2 assists while grabbing 2 GB's. Finally, Pfeiffer beat Rollins 18 to 9 with Tom Buckley (Edmonton) coming out of nowhere to score 6 goals (he previously had 1 goal so far this season) and grab a CT, while teammate Robert Hope (Peterborough) added a goal, 3 assists, 4 GB's and a CT. Canadian Rookie "Impact" leaders for Division II are presented below.

Canadian Rookie "Impact" Leaders In Div II - As of Apr 3/2011

Rank	Player	School	Hometown	GM	G	A	GB	CT	IPG
1	Mike Melnychenko	Chestnut Hill	St. Catharines	7	20	4	25	4	8.1
2	James Sheppard	Pfeiffer	St. John	9	27	3	23	1	6.1
3	Dylan Lefebvre	Seton Hill	Regina	8	14	9	18	0	5.1
4	Robert Hope	Pfeiffer	Peterborough	12	9	13	24	5	4.7
5	Chris Delaney	Dominican Coll.	PoCo	8	13	2	17	1	4.3
6	Mike Triolo	Pfeiffer	Toronto	12	0	1	32	9	4.3
7	Sheldon Burns	Dowling	Whitby	7	2	0	17	5	4.1
8	Matt Delmonico	Seton Hill	Port Moody	8	13	8	8	1	3.9
9	Trevor Tarte	Lake Erie	Amherstburg	7	13	2	5	1	3.1
10	Nick Amendt	American Intl	Ponoka	7	6	0	8	3	2.9
11	Mike Power	Limestone	Whitby	10	0	0	14	7	2.8
12	Tom Buckley	Pfeiffer	Edmonton	8	7	0	10	1	2.4
13	Carson Barton	Grand Canyon	Edmonton	4	3	2	4	0	2.3
14	David Beaumont	Mars Hill	New Westminster	8	0	0	5	4	1.6
15	Mitch McAvoy	Mercyhurst	Sherwood Park	7	1	0	10	0	1.6
16	Brendan Shea	Limestone	Maple Ridge	2	1	0	0	1	1.5
17	Brady Heseltine	Mercyhurst	Elora	2	3	0	0	0	1.5
18	Ethan Garland	Seton Hill	Victoria	8	3	4	3	0	1.3
19	Danny McDermott	NYIT	Richmond	6	0	0	7	0	1.2
20	Todd Nakasuji	Limestone	Ajax	8	4	4	1	0	1.1

Men's Div III – RIT wins two crucial games to move to #4 in the USILA Polls

Danny Dahms (Calgary) continues to lead all Canadian rookies in Division III in goal scoring and had another big game on the weekend as Concordia-Wisconsin beat Trine 9 to 4 with Dahms scoring 3 goals and an assist while adding a GB and 3 CT'. Teammate Kyle Burrell (Calgary) scored once while picking up 3 GB's and 2 CT's. RIT had two huge wins last week against two of their most storied rivals. In the first game, RIT beat Geneseo 11 to 10 with Jordan Macintosh (Oakville) scoring a hat trick to go with 3 GB's and 2 CT's. In the second game, a 12 -11 win over Cortland, Macintosh scored twice while adding an assist and grabbing 2 GB's. Neumann narrowly beat La Roche 10-9 with Mike Pantelone (Aurora) scoring a hat trick for the victors while Dustin Reykdal (Red Deer) scored 4 goals and grabbed 4 GB's for La Roche, with Jean Thouin (Laval) and Crawford Healey (Calgary) each adding a pair of markers. Richard Lachlan (Port Coquitlam) scored 7 goals in Roanoke's 24 to 9 thumping of Virginia Wesleyan while Keegan Bowman (New Westminster) scored a hat trick in Carthage's 17 to 8 win over Fontbonne. Finally, Ty Midwinter (Hamilton) scored twice and assisted on three more in Randolph Macon's 18 – 3 win over Guildford. The top Canadian Rookie "Impact" leaders in Div III are presented below.

Canadian Rookie "Impact" Leaders In Div III - As of Apr 3/2011

Rank	Player	School	Hometown	GM	G	A	GB	CT	IPG
1	Danny Dahms	Concordia	Calgary	7	20	3	17	9	8.3
2	Dustin Gatt	Elmira	Welland	4	3	1	16	4	7
3	Dustin Reykdal	La Roche	Red Deer	6	10	7	18	3	6.8

4	Crawford Healey	La Roche	Calgary	6	11	3	27	0	6.8
5	J.G. Thouin	La Roche	Laval	6	13	3	14	2	5.7
6	Pat Miles	New Eng.Coll.	Brampton	10	4	4	29	9	5.5
7	Brock Levick	Medaille	Newmarket	5	11	4	6	0	4.2
8	Kyle Burrell	Concordia	Calgary	7	3	6	11	3	3.7
9	Mitchell Banister	La Roche	Okotoks	6	1	1	14	3	3.7
10	Troy Grogran	Roanoke	Palgrave	10	0	0	16	10	3.6
11	Shawn Teixeira	La Roche	Calgary	4	1	7	6	0	3.5
12	Bryce Wells	La Roche	Cochrane	6	4	0	7	0	1.8
13	Curtis Renaud	Morrisville St.	Carlisle	3	0	0	3	1	1.7
14	Kyle Aquin	RIT	Hamilton	3	2	1	2	0	1.7
15	Stevey Douitsis	Medaille	Scarborough	5	0	2	6	0	1.6
16	Brett Austin	Randolph Macon	Port Moody	10	7	3	3	1	1.5
17	Justin Ingram	St Lawrence	Cornwall	5	3	0	4	0	1.4
18	Cameron Ferguson	Medaille	Pickering	5	3	0	1	0	0.8
19	Pat Gregoire	Medaille	Ajax	5	0	0	4	0	0.8
20	Adam Shute	New Eng.Coll.	Calgary	4	0	0	3	0	0.8

Women's Div I – Canisius is on a roll as Quinn, Daley and Oosting rock

Canisius won twice this past weekend and extended their program record winning streak to seven games. In the first win, a 19 to 5 beat down on Manhattan, Carly Quinn (Orangeville) scored 8 goals while adding an assist and a GB, while Megan Oosting (Lakefield) had 2 goals, 4 CT's and 2 GB's and Allison Daley (Peterborough) made 6 saves for the win in net. In the second game, Canisius beat Iona 13 to 8 with Daley making 7 saves and compatriots Oosting adding a hat trick, an assist and a GB and Quinn adding a goal, 4 assists and a CT. Detroit had a couple of tough losses last week but Emily Boissoneault (Brooklin) scored 6 goals in a loss to Davidson. Ohio State had a big win over Louisville with Jayme Beard (Hawkstone) scoring a goal, 2 assists while grabbing a GB and a CT, while Nat Blackburn (Mississauga) grabbed 3 GB's and 2 CT's for the victors. Finally, Katie Guy (Whitby) continues to shine for Penn State, scoring a goal and grabbing a GB in a loss to Florida.

Women's Div II and Div III

Adrian remains one of the premier Division III teams in the Midwest and won a pair of games on the weekend. In the first, a 21 to 4 victory over Trine, Rachel Johnston (St Catharines) scored 4 goals and added an assist while Olivia Duncan (Orangeville) also scored on 4 occasions. Morrisville also grabbed two victories last week, with Cassie Edmondson (Oshawa) scoring a goal and an assist to go with 3 GBs and 2 CTs in a 18 to 4 win over St Eliza and then followed that up with 2 goals, 2 assists, 7 GB's and 2 CT's in a win over Penn State – Abington. Finally, Limestone won a spirited victory over Queens of Charlotte on the weekend 11 to 7 and Sarah Oor (Uxbridge) scored a pair of goals and added a CT for good measure.

MCLA

SFU was quiet on the weekend as its students are in exam routine. The Clansman have two upcoming games this weekend in Eugene, Oregon against the University of Oregon and Cal Poly. SFU's next home game is on the 24th of April at the SFU campus against the University of Montana Grizzlies.

Final Thoughts

What do you do when a teammate of yours dies playing the game that you love while chasing a dream that you and he both shared? It's an open ended question and there is no correct answer because everyone who is touched by a tragedy such as this must answer this question at a personal level, in a personal way. In May, 2008 a young man named Jamieson (Jammer) Kuhlmann lost his life playing in a lacrosse game. At the time, Jamieson was a student-athlete at the Hill Academy north of Toronto where he played lacrosse as well as being a player with the Toronto Beaches Lacrosse Club. Jamieson's death hit his family, team mates, coaches and friends hard as the death of any person in the prime of their life does. As Jamieson's father Mark said, "My son was a remarkable young man who was called to play his game elsewhere, too early".

The tragedy was perhaps amplified by the fact that Jamieson really found himself at his new school. As his coach Brodie Merrill puts it, "he arrived at the Hill Academy and immediately blossomed as a student and athlete". Merrill goes on "three of his roommates and closest friends are playing college lacrosse today; they are Travis Comeau (Georgetown), Nils Thompson (Bryant), and Andrew Pellis (Ohio Wesleyan). All of these guys came to Ontario from Alberta and they referred to themselves as "Team Alberta". They lived in the room above Jamieson at The Hill Academy and they were the ones who provided him with the nickname "Jammer". All four of these guys were exceptional students and awesome kids. They really pushed Jamieson to come out of his shell and become the person he was. I know they all continue to carry Jamieson with them as they pursue successful college lacrosse careers."

Jamieson was close to all of his teammates who were bound by the pursuit of a common dream. Besides the kids from Alberta, three of his former teammates, namely Jason Noble (Cornell), Jeremy Noble (Denver) and Zach Palmer (Johns Hopkins) choose to honor the memory of their fallen brother by wearing his number 45 in every NCAA game they play – which means that a little piece of the "Jammer" ends up on a lot of highlight reels. Similarly, Jamieson's coach (Brodie Merrill) now wears # 45 in international competitions in honor of his former student.

So one can see that those closest to Jamieson are dealing with his departure in their own ways, waiting for time to heal the kind of wound that can only be healed by time. For the rest of us, someone decided to start a lacrosse tournament in honor of "the Jammer" and this tournament has blossomed into something really special. The tournament starts this Friday and is now a three day event and includes both boys and girls divisions and this year will feature its first international team (from NY State) which will play the Hill Academy on "Jamieson Field" at the Cherry Point Sports Park. The Toronto Rock and more than 35 city charities and organizations now support the tournament and there is talk that it will get even bigger next year because every lacrosse playing kid in the greater Toronto Area really wants to play in this tournament. Just like the Jammer!