

Sia finds success playing the field

Ted CLARKE

Citizen staff
tclarke@pgcitizen.ca

Just because he's good enough to play for B.C.'s senior elite provincial field lacrosse team, that doesn't mean Domenico Sia has found a path to easy street.

In fact, the 17 year old from Prince George had to become a road warrior and a frequent flyer to fulfill his commitment to his Vancouver-based team.

From late-May, right up until late-July, when he traveled to Baltimore, Md., with the Burnaby Mountain Selects to play in the Champ Cup national championship, Sia made the trip south every weekend.

"It is really hard for me, living here and going down every week - I didn't miss one practice and that's about 10 or 12 trips," Sia said.

"I think I played really well, my coach was happy with me."

The Selects were the only Canadian team of the 72 that entered the U.S. tournament and played well enough to advance to the top-32 cham-

pionship bracket. Playing in a country where college field lacrosse is prominent, especially in the hotbed of the sport in the northeastern states, was a thrill for the Burnaby Mountain team.

Surrounded by scouts from all the top NCAA programs, the Selects didn't advance as far as they would have liked, finishing with a 2-5 record. But despite the blazing heat, with humidex readings well into the 40s, the experience was well worth the effort.

"We played really good in our first four games and that got us into the playoffs and then the last couple games we didn't play that well," said Sia, a midfielder. "We did fairly good for the only Canadian team down there."

Miguel DaSilva of Prince George, 16, was Sia's travel partner the past two months as a defenceman for the Burnaby Mountain Selects junior elite team.

DaSilva, like Sia, was the only member of his provincial team from the northern half of the province. The two will

likely be teammates next year on the Burnaby Mountain senior team.

The juniors played in the 40-team Syracuse University Summer Shootout in mid-July against the top club teams from New York and Ohio and came away with a 1-4-1 record. That tournament was watched by 60 college coaches, including members of the staff from Syracuse University, who won back-to-back NCAA Division 1 titles in 2008 and 2009.

College scholarships are a big deal in field lacrosse and some players are being rewarded with \$65,000 annual packages to attend NCAA schools. Sia is a straight-A student heading into his Grade 12 year at College Heights secondary school, and that opens him up to opportunities for academic as well as athletic scholarships. On Tuesday he was selected as a winner of Burnaby Mountain's scholar athlete award, handed out to all players in the program who achieve an academic average of 80 per cent or better.

An aspiring dentist, Sia is leaning toward Simon Fraser University and plans to write his SAT tests over the next few months to prepare for SFU, now part of the NCAA's Division 2.

The head coach of the SFU Clan, Brent Hoskins, also calls the shots for the Burnaby Mountain senior team. Hoskins wanted Sia to be part of Burnaby Mountain's fall program but due to his heavy school workload at College Heights decided not to attend.

Instead, he will be playing with a local group of field lacrosse players headed by coach Bill Barwise, a program that runs through the winter at the Northern Sport Centre, leading up to the provincial championship in February.

Sia also plays box lacrosse in the Prince George Senior Lacrosse Association for the College Heights Pub Assault.

The PGSLA champions will be in action next weekend at the Treasure Cove Casino Senior Invitational/senior C provincial tournament at the Kin Centre.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Domenico Sia has pushed a hard road to make it with the Selects.

Obama hosts Super Bowl champions

Julie PACE

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Welcoming the Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers to the White House was no easy task for President Barack Obama.

The president is a die-hard fan of the Packers' rivals, the Chicago Bears, the team Green Bay beat in last year's championship game to move on to the Super Bowl.

"I'm just gonna come out and say it," Obama said. "This hurts a little bit. This is a hard thing for a Bears fan to do. It doesn't hurt as much as the NFC championship game hurt, but it still hurts."

But in the spirit of sportsmanship, the

president welcomed the Packers and some of their fans to the White House Friday. He praised the team for overcoming a slew of injuries throughout the season as they marched toward their fourth Super Bowl victory. And he recognized their work in the Green Bay community, citing their millions of dollars raised for charity, scholarships given to local students, and support of service members and their families.

Obama singled out Packers cornerback Charles Woodson — but not for his skill on the football field. When Obama travelled to Wisconsin in January, just before the Super Bowl, he received several Packers gifts, including a jersey signed by Woodson that read: "See you at the White

House. Go Packers."

"Charles, you're a man of your word," Obama said Friday during a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House.

The players then presented Obama not only with a personalized Packers jersey, but also shares in the team.

The Packers are publicly owned, and more than 100,000 stockholders hold shares in the team.

Once he was made a part owner, the president had some suggestions for the team — namely trading their quarterback and Super Bowl MVP Aaron Rodgers to his beloved Bears. No word on how that suggestion was playing in Obama's hometown, and with Bears quarterback Jay Cutler.

Former heavyweight contender LeDoux dies at 62

The Associated Press

COON RAPIDS, Minn. — Scott LeDoux, a former heavyweight contender who took on Larry Holmes, George Foreman and Ken Norton and twice fought for the title, has died. He was 62.

He died Thursday at his home in the Minneapolis suburb of Coon Rapids after a nearly three-year battle with Lou Gehrig's disease, longtime friend and attorney Bob Dolan told The Associated Press on Friday.

Nicknamed "The Fighting Frenchman," LeDoux was the son of a miner in the northern Minnesota town of Crosby who went on to fight professionally from 1974 to 1983. He had a record of 33-13-4 record, with 22 knockouts.

He earned a draw with Norton and Leon Spinks and lost a title fight to Holmes by technical knockout in 1980 at



Ledoux

the Met Center, the arena that was once home to the Minnesota North Stars. He

fought Muhammad Ali in a five-round exhibition.

LeDoux developed a reputation as a fun-loving fighter, who once accidentally knocked off Howard Cosell's toupee while the sportscaster won doing a ring-side interview with Johnny Boudreaux after a bout LeDoux believed he should have won.

He entered the political arena after leaving boxing. He was an Anoka County commissioner until resigning a year ago because of declining health. His wife was elected to fill his seat.

"He was a big man with a gentle spirit," said Anoka County board of commissioners chair Rhonda Sivarajah. "I can only imagine the sadness at losing someone so special after such a valiant battle."

LeDoux was a two-time Upper Midwest Golden Gloves champion and played college football at Minnesota Duluth.

Just look at the picture again.



It's OK to keep staring at the picture. In fact, we kind of designed the All-New 2012 Passat so you wouldn't have to read ads like this. The sleek sophistication should speak for itself, saying things like, "Not only does it look great, but the spacious, comfortable interior boasts class-leading rear seat legroom* and is full of standard features, like Bluetooth connectivity and a leather-wrapped steering wheel." So, go ahead and have another look at the picture, or drop by our dealership to see the Passat in person. And while you do, consider the price. Then you'll see why we say that the 2012 Passat pretty much sells itself.

THE ALL-NEW 2012 PASSAT.

NOW STARTING FROM \$25,340... IT PRETTY MUCH SELLS ITSELF.

Hub City Motors & Equipment

1822 Queensway Street • Prince George, BC
(250) 564-7228 • 1-888-300-6013

DL#5365

www.hubcitymotors.com



Das Auto.

*Based on a comparison of other 2011 models available at the time of publication, in the intermediate sedan segment. **Base MSRP of a new and unregistered 2012 Passat 2.5L base model with manual transmission is \$25,340, including \$1,265 freight and PDI, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options and other applicable taxes are extra. Model shown: 2012 Passat Highline 2.5L with options and accessories, \$31,540. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown. Dealer may sell for less. Dealer sets/sets/trade-in may be necessary. Visit us or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo and "Passat" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. The Bluetooth word mark and logo are registered trademarks of Bluetooth SIG, Inc. © 2011 Volkswagen Canada.

YOU ARE MY PRIORITY!

- Buying
- Selling
- Relocations
- Market Evaluations

KEN LAURSEN
250-552-0839
When thinking Real Estate...
Expect More!

ROYAL LEPAGE

loursen2@telus.net | www.kenloursen.com

Will YOUR Mortgage Insurance FROM YOUR BANK actually pay in the event of your death?

We have a better way to protect your family and their future

- Save up to 50% on your current mortgage insurance premiums
- Guaranteed Benefit payment for the FULL VALUE of your policy - not just the balance of your mortgage
- Medical Underwriting done at time of purchase - vs time of claim

Learn the FACTS at www.cbc.ca/marketplace/in_denial

Call Phil or Brian to SECURE YOUR family's future

GIRARD FINANCIAL SERVICES

#200-2700 Queensway St.
Prince George, BC V2L-1N2
250-564-0262 (phone)
250-563-1695 (fax)
www.girardfinancial.com
01706863

LIMITED TIME ONLY

RECEIVE A **FREE WOOD-PRO™ KIT**
with the purchase of any eligible STIHL Chain Saw
AN \$85 VALUE!

Starting at **\$229.95**

Ask our friendly staff for more information.

STIHL

YOUR #1 STIHL DEALER

WESTERN EQUIPMENT LTD.

UNIT E 5426 CONTINENTAL WAY
250-563-8871 or TOLL FREE 1-800-663-2210
www.westernequipmentltd.com