

Sports

sports@thenownews.com

Score Card

PoCo natives nab All American field lax billing

Their play on the field has got those off the field talking about it.

Port Coquitlam natives James Delaney and Richard Lachlan were named as Preseason NCAA All-Americans this week by the ESPN affiliate Inside Lacrosse in the recently released Face-off Yearbook.

Delaney garnered second team honours in the NCAA Division II and was also named as a pre-season first team All East Coast Conference (ECC) selection. Lachlan, on the other hand, received an honorable mention in NCAA Division III.

The PoCo pair's top billing is a reflection of the Inside Lacrosse staff and contributors, on top of consultation from dozens of college coaches across the U.S.

Delaney's inclusion on the vaunted list marks the second straight year he's earned All American recognition.

A 2009 graduate of the Burnaby Mountain Selects program, Delaney is entering his junior year during the upcoming 2012 season at Seton Hill University (NCAA Div. II) in Greensburg, Pa.

Through two seasons with the Griffins, Delaney has scored an impressive 47 goals and 33 assists for 80 points in 28 games.

In 2011, Delaney's 2.64 points-per-game placed him 45th nationally in NCAA Div. II, earning him a second team All ECC selection and honourable mention All-American honors last season.

During his three seasons with the Burnaby Mountain crew, Delaney helped the Selects to second-place finishes at the 2008 Hobart College Team Camp and 2009 NDP Atlantic Cup.

A junior with at Roanoke College (NCAA Div. III) in Salem, Va., Lachlan was voted to the second team in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) last season, while his 2.71 goals-per-game average saw him finish 33rd in NCAA Division III.

Lachlan earned his first all-conference honour after posting a banner campaign: he led the ODAC in goals (57), goals-per-game (2.71) and game-winning goals (six).

He also finished ranked second in the conference in total points (68) and fifth in points-per-game (3.24).

The PoCo native started all 21 games for the Maroons in 2011, and was named the ODAC Player of the Week on April 4.

Through two NCAA seasons, Lachlan has tallied 95 goals and 20 assists for 115 points in 42 games.



California native John Siemer, left, potted two goals in Wednesday night's 6-4 win over Nanaimo to help lift Coquitlam to fourth in the standings. *Paul vanPeenen/NOW*

Express poised for playoff push

John Kurucz

sports@thenownews.com

A quick start and yet another display of power play proficiency helped propel the Coquitlam Express to a 6-4 home win over the Nanaimo Clippers Wednesday.

The Express jumped out to a 3-1 first period lead and padded that cushion with two more in the second before Nanaimo chipped away at the lead to get back within one.

Up 5-2 to start the third, Nanaimo scored 47 seconds into the final frame and followed that tally up six minutes later to bring the score to 5-4.

"I feel like we laid back a little bit. We kind of thought we had it in the bag and we let them back into it with a couple quick ones on us," said Express captain Alex Petan. "You could kind of tell when they scored that third goal, a couple of heads bowed down on the bench. We just had to regroup and get back out there like nothing happened."

John Siemer's second of the night with eight minutes left to play put the brakes on any comeback attempt. The win puts Coquitlam into the fourth and final playoff spot in the Coastal Conference standings.

"Bearing down and getting those goals in the second when we were already on top really helped

us out," Siemer said. "My first goal was a pretty easy one right in and around the net, and the second one was a kind of a fluke as well, but they went in."

Outside of Siemer's two-goal performance, the Express also got markers from Zach Hodder, Alexander Kerfoot, Taylor Bourne and Dante Godhino.

Rookie defenceman Taylor Love continued his strong play so far this season by potting a pair of helpers, while netminder Cole Huggins kept on padding his stats by turning away 38 of 42 shots.

Acquired earlier this season, Huggins is now 8-0-1 on the year and has posted a 2.39 goals against average on top of a remarkable .933 save percentage.

"It's like the old story goes — you can't lie when it comes to the win and loss column," said Express head coach Jon Calvano. "His win and loss columns are substantially different — one column's got eight in it, the other column's got zero. It's pretty hard to argue with that. We're really happy he's given us that support and the confidence that we can put him in the net and not worry. He's worked hard off the ice, he's a student of the game and we're really happy with him."

Having just eclipsed the 30-game mark, the Coquitlam crew has made marked improvements in a number of statistical categories through the first half of the season. Not only is the club poised for the stretch run towards the playoffs, but the special teams have been just that.

Coquitlam's power play sits second in the 16-team

loop, and is clicking at a 27-per-cent average. The penalty kill isn't that far behind either, sitting in fifth place thanks to an 83-per-cent penalty kill ratio.

That they're in fourth place doesn't hurt either. "It's the personnel that we have on the power play," Calvano said. "We have some very skilled forwards who can handle the puck, make passes, and they understand simple concepts. The creativity of some of our players is very high, so it gives us the opportunity to make plays that we haven't designed, but they're able to react off of certain situations. Let's face it, hockey is a reactive sport. It's not a stagnant sport where guys are going to be standing around all the time. With our forwards on the power play, they've got a creative instinct and a reactionary instinct to make a play that might not have drawn up."

Petan is perhaps the embodiment of the club's turnaround this season, as the third-year forward has already eclipsed his point totals from last year and then some. The 19-year-old put up 33 points in 51 games last season, though he's already bagged 46 points in 30 contests this year.

"I think it's our depth," he said of the club's fortunes to date this season. "All 12 forwards in the last four or five games have chipped in with a goal or with a big momentum-changing hit. Our depth is the biggest change from last year and I feel that everybody has a big role on the team. That's where our success is coming from this year."

The Express have one last contest before the holiday break. Coquitlam will play host Friday to the cellar-dwelling Alberni Valley Bulldogs, a club that's recently undergone a coaching change and sits with an 11-15-2 record.

Game time is 7 p.m.