



## Box Nationals 2017 - Saskatoon, SK & Whitby, ON

Nations, 7-3 over Alberta, 10-1 win over Saskatchewan, 14-0 over Manitoba, and a 9-3 win over Quebec. Team BC top scorers were: Joshua Iacino (15G, 5A), Noah Manning (5G, 11A), Sean Clark (5G, 10A), Quinn Ridley (4G, 8A) and Finn Halladay (7G, 3A). Goalies Brendan Hunchak and Brayden Wandler posted 1.33 and 5.46 goals against averages respectively.

Team BC met a relentless Team Alberta squad, coached by Team BC Alumni Richard Lachlan and Keegan Bal, in the semi-finals. Both teams fell into a defensive battle ending the game knotted at 3 apiece. Overtime proved fruitful for Team BC netting 4 goal to Alberta's 1 for a 7-4 OT victory and a spot in the gold game versus Team Ontario.

In the gold game, BC gave it their all against a big and talented Ontario squad. Ontario dominated the first frame jumping out to a 4-0 lead after one. Alec Billings open BC's scoring 46 seconds into the second, followed by another by Iacino, only to be answered by Ontario. Team BC rattled off three goals in 2:59 to tie the game at 5-5 late in the period, but Ontario answered again to end the period up 6-5. In the third, Ontario went on a 5-0 run to go on and take the gold 11-5 over BC. Josh Iacino was selected Team BC's tournament all-star.

"We unfortunately lost two top athletes to injury and were beat up," said Coach Daren Fridge. "The system we played and how we overcame adversity allowed us to get contributions from many different areas. We were athletic and could withstand a battle which really showed the heart and grit of these players."

"Our comeback in the Ontario gold game was great -- the energy in the building and other provinces cheering us on, was an amazing feeling. Manager Dean Favaro was incredible again, and the collective effort with parents that stepped up made all aspects of managing this team easy. It was an amazing experience, based on parent feedback. This is one of the most enjoyable coaching experiences I have ever had."

**Midgets-**The Midget team looked to better their 2016 bronze performance in 2017. Parity was evident with the Midgets as it was a four-team battle at the top with improved Alberta and First Nations squads. The Midgets placed third after the round robin with a 5-2 record. Team BC scores were: a 12-4 opener loss to Ontario, a 10-2 win over Quebec, 11-3 over Saskatchewan, a 9-6 win over First Nations and Nova Scotia, and a close 6-5 loss to Alberta in the final round-robin game.

Team BC met Team Ontario in the 2-3 game and were trounced 12-5 by their rivals and a spot in the bronze medal game.

Team BC met Team First Nations for the bronze and had plenty to prove to claw back and battle for the bronze. In a game that had everything from game stoppages for injuries, two penalty shots and goalies called for illegal sticks, it wasn't enough to come back from a two-goal deficit as the Team BC Midget lost a hard fought 7-6 game to the First Nations in the bronze.

Team BC top scorers were: Kyle Brunsch (10G, 10A), Trevor Funk (4G, 13A), Drew Andre (5G, 11A) and Dre Kask (5G, 9A). Goaltenders Matteo Tack and Braeden Washington held their opponents to 47 goals against in eight games for a team 5.88 goals against average. Kaidin Sheehan-Davies was named the Team BC tournament all-star.

"While it didn't turn out well in terms of a medal for Team BC, we as a staff can agree that this team came together and fought hard for each other. The coaches did a wonderful job in preparation," said Head Coach Lance Andre.

Team BC Box Lacrosse Technical Coordinator, Darcy Rhodes, was proud of all athletes, coaches, managers and volunteers that made the Team BC experience impressive.

"The 2017 Team BC Box Lacrosse program once again had a successful year at Nationals competitions," stated Rhodes. "Not all teams medaled, but all players and coaches should be proud of their achievements and the mark they have made on their lacrosse development. It is always nice to get such positive feedback on how well Team BC represents themselves as a Province at Nationals."