

Box Nationals 2018 - Saskatoon, Whitby, Calgary



Top Photo Courtesy:
Savannah Leroux

2018 Team BC Bantam Boys Team - Silver

Lower Photos Courtesy:
CLA & Rich Fryer



2018 Team BC Midget Boys Team - Silver

2018 Team BC Pee Wee Boys Team - Bronze

Team BC Boys Box Teams Battle at Nationals

Three Team BC Boys Box Lacrosse teams competed at the 2018 Youth National Box Lacrosse Championships. The Bantam boys Nationals were held August 9-14 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, the Pee Wee boys Nationals, August 5-11, in Whitby, Ontario and Midget boys, August 12-18 in Calgary, Alberta.

Pee Wee-The Pee Wee boys finished the round robin in second place with a 4 win, 1 loss record. Team BC scores included an opening 2-1 loss to Ontario – an action packed game that had fans on the edge of their seats! In game two, BC got in the win column with a 13-1 win over Nova Scotia and rattled off three more victories -- 12-1 over Manitoba, 10-4 over Saskatchewan and 7-4 over First Nations.

In the 2-3 crossover game, BC jumped out to a 4-0 lead early in the second, only to see it dwindle as Team First Nations pecked away to score four unanswered goals to push the game to overtime. Team First Nation took the lead 5-4 at the 4:10 mark of OT, but BC's Jaxson Roy tied the game with 4 second left in OT and took the game into double OT. After multiple chances for each team, Team First Nations potted the winner at 5:58 to end one of the most exciting games of the Pee Wee Nationals. Team BC regrouped for the bronze game and fought back with a spirited effort to win a decisive 12-0 victory over Saskatchewan.

Team BC top scorers overall were Oliver Josephson (6G, 9A), Adam Dane (9G, 3A), Jaxson Roy (7G, 2A), and Nathan Dawe (3G, 6A). Goaltender tandem Malcolm Tyler and Grayson Manning yielded a measly 18 goals in 7 games and a 2.57 team goals against average. Oliver Josephson was Team BC's tournament all-star selection.

The rigors of league, Provincials and Team BC training meant the time spent together with athletes was focussed not only on team play, but also growing together as a cohesive group and learning along the way.

“Our team needed to grow together as a team quickly,” noted Coach Van Beek. “They bonded by playing not only lacrosse, but common games and activities. They realized that as a team, they are equal or better than any other

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team at Nationals. We are hungrier for better than a bronze medal. We know better and more preparation will get us to the next level.”

Bantams-The Bantams went into Nationals with a well-rounded team of grinders with a hunger to win. They ended up in second place with a 4 win and 1 loss record after the round robin – their only blemish a 4-1 loss to Ontario. Team BC scores were: 10-1 over Manitoba, 7-2 over First Nations, 14-3 over Saskatchewan and 9-3 over Nova Scotia.

Team BC met a physical Manitoba squad in the 2-3 game. BC got up quickly on goals by Josh MacDonald and Dylan Manson, only to have Manitoba tie the score in the first. Team BC scored three unanswered goals by Malawsky, Coghill and Lavery in 1:43 in the second to jump out to a 5-2 lead. Manitoba would make it close in the third but time ran out with BC on top 5-4.

In the gold game, BC gave it their all against a big, talented Ontario squad. Ontario opened the scoring at the 2:50 mark, but BC answered on a Manson tally minutes later. The teams traded goals as Ontario held a 3-2 edge after one. Ontario took a 4-2 lead, but BC again clawed back with two goals by MacDonald to knot the game at 4 after two. BC took a 5-4 lead on a Koen Block goal at the 6:31 mark of the third, but Ontario rattled off three goals to win the game 7-5 and the title. Dylan Manson was selected as Team BC's tournament all-star.

Team BC top scorers were: Jaxon Smart (7G, 9A), Dylan Manson (7G, 4A), Koen Block (5G, 4A) and Luke Lavery (4G, 5A). Goalies Jack Kask and Ty Reeve posted 3.60 and 3.00 goals against averages respectively.

“I'd like to say how proud we were as a coaching staff with how our athletes conducted themselves on and off the floor,” stated Coach Malawsky. “They really showed that Team BC is a first class program.”

Possession, Composure, Resiliency and Trust were the cornerstones of the Bantam team. This group embodied togetherness which brought the team goals to the forefront.

“To start the tournament, the boys were playing WITH each other, but by the end of the eight days they were battling, bleeding and working for each other,” explained Malawsky. “I truly believe the players, coaches, management and parents are all better for the experience at Nationals. Even though a silver medal is not what we came for -- it really showed we have closed the gap on Ontario and in two years from now, the Team BC Midgets will be a force to be reckoned with.”

Midgets-The Midget team looked to better their 2017 fourth place finish. Parity was evident with the Midgets as it was a four-team battle at the top with improved Alberta and First Nation squads. The Midgets placed third with a 4-2 round robin record. Team BC scores were: an 8-4 opener win over First Nations, 17-3 over Manitoba, a 7-3 loss to Ontario, a 10-2 win over Saskatchewan, a close 5-4 loss to Alberta and a 10-1 win over Nova Scotia.

BC met Alberta in the 2-3 game. After a tightly contested 2-2 first frame, Alberta scored six stright goals in the second for a commanding 8-2 lead after two. BC battled and narrowed the gap to four in an 8-4 loss and a spot in the bronze medal game.

Team BC met Nova Scotia for the bronze and had plenty to prove. After a scoreless first frame, BC rattled off five unanswered goals in less than thirteen minutes to end the second at 5-0. Nova Scotia broke the shutout at the 1:31 mark, but Team BC kept the barrage coming and scored the last five goals of the game to handily defeat Nova Scotia 10-1 and win the bronze. BC's ten goals were scored by nine different players.

Team BC top scorers were: Thomas Vela (7G, 8A), Marcus Klarich (10G, 4A), Kenyon Nyman (5G, 9A) and Carter Sheridan (9G, 4A). Goaltenders Thomas Ungaro and Trace Recsky held their opponents to 31 goals against in eight games for a team 3.88 goals against average. Cole Arthur was named the Team BC tournament all-star.

While not the result the Midgets wanted, much was accomplished with this gritty group of athletes.

“I am proud of our team and what we accomplished -- we ethically maintained our decision to not resort to O/D and we competed at the best level we could -- the players were rewarded with a bronze medal,” said Coach Bradley. “They came together as a group and as team and for that I am extremely proud that our staff was able to foster that environment. Many decisions were made that not all agreed with, but every decision was made for the benefit of the team as a whole and I believe they respected that.”