

Box Nationals 2019 - Coquitlam, BC



2019 Team BC Bantam Boys Team - Silver

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2019 Team BC Midget Boys Team - Silver



2019 Team BC Pee Wee Boys Team - Silver

Pee Wee-The Pee Wee boys spent as much time off the floor as on the floor to build a cohesive group of young men. Head Coach, Bruce Alexander, stepped into the Team BC program and created a team of 20 new friends that would battle together. Alexander's staff included assistants Jeff Moleski, Cary Novotny and John Olson.

The Pee Wees finished the round robin in second place with a 4 win, 1 loss record. Team BC game scores included an opening 10-0 shutout over Saskatchewan, a tight action packed 4-2 win over First Nation, a 15-1 trouncing of Manitoba, 11-0 over Nova Scotia, and a 6-2 loss to Ontario to end the round robin portion.

In the crossover game versus a tough First Nations team, BC jumped out to a 3-0 first period lead on goals by Gourlay, Fournier and Longacre. The scoring continued with a goal by Garrett Sakamoto at the 9:13 mark of the second, only to have it dwindle, as Team First Nation pecked away and netted two goals in two minutes, to end the second 4-2 BC. With 4:28 left in the game, Team First Nation made things interesting and got within one goal, but Team BC's Keenan deWit iced it with 2:46 left en route to a 5-3 victory.

Team BC regrouped for the gold game rematch versus Ontario. Ontario opened the scoring at the 4:47 mark of the first frame, only to have BC answer 47 seconds later, on a goal from Jordan Alexander. Ontario added one more marker to take a 2-1 lead into the first break. Ontario scored six unanswered second period goals to take the lead and didn't look back. Team BC added two late markers by Lincoln Wall and Maximo Goller, but the damage was done as BC bowed to Ontario 10-3 in the finals.

Team BC top scorers overall were Lincoln Wall (6G, 7A), Austin Vanichuk (4G, 8A), Brayden Longacre (5G, 5A), Maximo Goller (6G, 4A) and Caden Gourlay (5G, 2A). Goaltender tandem Jett Burns and Teagan Douglas yielded a measly 22 goals in 7 games. Austin Vanichuk was Team BC's tournament all-star selection.

"I'm really proud of our group as I felt they continued to improve through the Nationals, and bought into the system the coaching staff laid out," said Alexander. There were so many distractions that came with a National tournament and most of the boys had never had to deal with these emotions before. We played a composed game, and for the most part, the boys handled themselves very well. What a great experience for the players, coaches, support staff and parents -- one that will be fondly remembered for many years to come."

Bantams-The Bantams went into Nationals with a well-rounded team of gamers with a hunger to win. Head Coach Gerry Van Beek constructed a veteran coaching staff of Randy Clough, Sheldon Evers, and Grant Hamilton with a collective eye

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on the title.

The Bantams ended up in second place with a record of 3 wins, a tie and a loss after the round robin. Team BC game scores were: 9-5 over Saskatchewan, 16-3 over Manitoba, 16-0 over Nova Scotia, a 4-4 draw with Ontario, and their only blemish was a close 6-4 defeat at the hands of Team First Nation. Team BC met a talented First Nation squad in the crossover game. BC adapted their game plan and improved on their mistakes after their 2-goal round robin loss.

Late in the first period, Team First Nation scored two goals in just over a minute to take a 2-0 lead before Nathan Chalmers narrowed the gap to 2-1, inside a minute left in the first frame. Team BC took charge in the second with Chalmers' second marker, while Aidan McDonald's goal at the 1:32 mark gave BC their first lead of the game.

Cole Kennett's goal gave BC a 4-2 lead, before Team First Nation cut the gap to one only two minutes later. The Bantams rattled off three straight goals by Pivetta, Lowe and McDonald to win 7-3 and a spot in the gold medal game.

In the gold game, BC gave it their all against a big, talented Ontario squad. Ontario scored the first five goals of the game before Reid Hinds MacDonald tallied at 6:42 of the second period to end the period at 5-1 in favour of Ontario. Team Ontario continued their goal scoring ways with the next three goals, to take a commanding 8-1 lead. Benjamin Pawluk and Reid Hinds MacDonald finished the scoring only to drop an 8-3 decision to Ontario.

Team BC top scorers were: Aidan McDonald (10G, 8A), Jared Maznik (10G, 5A), Reid Hinds MacDonald (6G, 5A), Carter Ashworth (1G, 8A) and Ryan Lowe (6G, 3A). Goalies Grayson Manning and Angus Snow yielded 29 goals in 7 games. Aidan McDonald was selected as Team BC's tournament all-star.

"Our team was committed to playing through adverse situations throughout Nationals -- the players managed to rise to the occasion in all situations," said Head Coach Gerry Van Beek. "The intensity and focus displayed by our athletes, in the more competitive games showed that they not only competed, but excelled to reach a higher level. I was overly impressed with the comradery between all the Team BC Box teams."

Midgets-The Midget team looked to better their 2018 bronze medal finish. Head Coach Daren Fridge assembled an incredible coaching staff of Curt Malawsky, Del Halladay and Mitch Cavallarin to push the athletes to compete at higher levels. Fridge's staff were very familiar with each other on teams at Nationals over the years, and the players were no strangers to each other either.

Parity was evident with the Midgets as it was a three-team competition at the top with Alberta Ontario and BC. The Midgets ended the round robin in second place with 5 wins and a tie. Team BC scores were: an 11-2 opening win over a physical Saskatchewan team, a commanding 14-7 win over First Nations, 22-4 over Nova Scotia, a tight 5-2 win over archrival Alberta, 15-2 over Manitoba, and an exciting 6-6 tie versus Ontario.

BC met Alberta in the highly anticipated crossover game. BC's David Charney opened the scoring at 14:14 of the first. Alberta tied the score late in the first only to be answered by a Noah Manning tally 51 seconds later at the 4:13 mark. Alberta went on to even the score at 2-2 after one. BC recaptured the lead on a Connor Barrett goal. At 7:58, Calum Munro increased the lead to 4-2 to round out the second period. Alberta could only muster one third period goal on Jack Royer's hatrick goal to close the gap to 4-3, then Team BC stepped up their defense to solidify an entertaining game and secure a spot in the finals. The final was set -- Team BC versus Ontario for gold.

Ontario opened the scoring 2:18 into the game and took a 3-0 lead by the 11:15 mark. Team BC hunkered down and stormed back on goals by Alec Billings and Noah Manning to end the first down 3-2. BC tied the score at three just 2:30 into the second period before Ontario answered to regain a 4-3 lead. BC and Ontario traded goals in the second frame as Ontario regained the lead at 7-6 with 34 seconds left in the middle frame. The score remained 7-6 late in the third, until the 4:50 mark, when Ontario scored three quick goals in 94 seconds to pull ahead for good. Noah Manning scored his hatrick goal and got within three goals, only to have Ontario round out the scoring with two more to win the gold 12-7.

Team BC top scorers were: Finn Halladay (8G, 12A), Joshua Iacino (8G, 12A), Noah Manning (13G, 3A), Dylan Johannes (8G, 8A) and Joel McCormick (7G, 8A). Goaltenders Daniel Ramage and Marc Russell-Rippberger held their opponents to 38 goals against in eight games. Josh Gabriele was named the Team BC tournament all-star.

"We were obviously disappointed winning silver. I am very appreciative of my outstanding coaches Curt, Del and Mitch. We were well prepared for each game due to their knowledge and expertise. Our training staff of Heather and Ralph for getting our athletes in the best shape they could. Thank you to Dean Favaro, our manager, and the many moms, dads and sisters that assisted with food, media, hydration and laundry. All the players had to focus on was playing, and there were very few distractions to disrupt our goals."