

# Box Nationals 2016 - Saskatoon, SK & Whitby, ON



Top Photo Courtesy:  
Susan Atkinson

**2016 Team BC Midget Boys Team - Bronze**

Lower Photos Courtesy:  
Denise Mayree Photo &  
Gord Kask



**2016 Team BC Bantam Boys Team - 4th**



**2016 Team BC Pee Wee Boys Team - Bronze**

## **Team BC Boys Box Teams Battle at Nationals**

This past summer, five Team BC Box Lacrosse teams competed in three provinces at the 2016 Youth National Box Lacrosse Championships. The Female Nationals were held July 18-23 in Calgary, Alberta; the Bantam boys Nationals were held August 2-6 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; and the Pee Wee and Midget boys Nationals, July 31-August 6, in Whitby, Ontario alongside the OLA Lacrosse Festival. Team BC Box Lacrosse teams competed well at Box Nationals this summer and brought home four medals -- two silver and two bronze.

**Pee Wee-**The Pee Wee boys finished the round robin in second place with a 5 win, 1 loss record. Team BC scores were: an opening 8-0 drubbing by Ontario, a close 8-7 win over Manitoba, 5-4 over Alberta, 16-0 over Nova Scotia, 16-0 over Saskatchewan, and 6-2 over First Nations. Team BC dropped a 5-4 decision to Team First Nations in a remarkable and well-played semi-final game. Team BC regrouped and fought back from a late third period deficit to tie the game 4-4 versus Alberta with over a minute left. Team BC scored the only OT goal to win 5-4 in a bronze game thriller. Team BC top scorers overall were Cody Malawsky (7G, 6A), Connor Gordon (3G, 7A), Koen Block, Jaxon Smart, Ty Banks, and Nathan King all with 7 points apiece. Goaltender tandem Jack Kask and Keegan Okino yielded a measly 30 goals in 8 games for a team 4.50 goals against average. Cody Malawsky was Team BC's tournament all-star selection.

"To be honest, the result was disappointing, but the boys got to play against the best kids in Canada," stated coach Curt Malawsky. "I was proud of the team as the boys accepted and flourished in different roles, from those they played on their club teams. There were many adverse situations the boys handled well, and not so well at times. That experience alone is invaluable in the growth of the players. We have two years to prepare and make a difference in Bantam -- the team made that commitment to each other. I have no doubt, the results will be different next go round."

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**Bantams**-The Bantams went into Nationals with a team of battlers with a “never say die” attitude. They ended up in third place after the round robin with a 4 win and 2 loss record. Team BC scores were: 18-4 over Nova Scotia, 6-4 over First Nations, 12-0 over Manitoba, an 8-0 win over Saskatchewan, and two losses -- 6-5 to Alberta and 7-4 to Ontario. Team BC top scorers were: Austin Ducommun (9G, 11A), Cameron Ickert (9G, 3A), Noah Manning (3G, 9A), and Jordan Kujala (6G, 5A). Goalies Trace Recsky and Reed Watson posted 4.25 and 4.75 goals against averages respectively.

Team BC met a relentless Team Alberta squad in the semi-finals but fell short with a gutsy effort 9-4. A gold was out of the picture, but a bronze was on the table.

In the bronze game, First Nations netted the game's first four goals to lead 4-0 at the 2:25 mark of the second period. Team BC clawed back with three goals of their own in 3:48 to narrow the score to 4-3, but First Nations added one more to end the second 5-3. The Bantams traded goals in the third, but ran out of time to lose a hard fought match 8-5 and off the medal podium. Cameron Ickert was selected Team BC's tournament all-star.

“This was my first experience coaching in the Team BC Program, and I truly enjoyed this opportunity,” stated coach Ron McQuarrie. “Most of the great memories and tremendous experience comes from the outstanding young men that I got to know as the players on Team BC Bantam. I cannot say enough good things about the quality and strong character of our Team. We represented Team BC and BC Lacrosse with great pride, character, and sportsmanship. With certainty, this Team BC Bantam season was a success.”

**Midgets**-The Midget team looked to better their 2015 bronze performance in 2016. Parity was evident with the Midgets as it was a 5-team battle at the top with improved Nova Scotia and First Nations squads. The Midgets placed fourth after the round robin with a 1-1-2 record. Team BC scores were: 9-8 over Alberta in the tournament opener marquee match, a tough 8-7 loss to Nova Scotia, a 5-5 tie with First Nations, and then a 13-5 drubbing by Ontario.

Team BC lost in a tie-breaker to finish fourth and out of gold medal contention due to the earlier loss to Nova Scotia. Team BC handily beat Alberta 9-3 in the 4/5 game to punch their ticket to the bronze game to once again meet Nova Scotia. Team BC met Nova Scotia for the bronze and had plenty to prove as they handed Nova Scotia an 8-3 loss en route to the bronze medal. Team BC top scorers were: Evan Wray (7G, 2A), Jared Moloci (4G, 4A), Gabriel Procyk, Mark Yingling, Haiden Dickson and Jordy Mahal all with 7 points apiece. Goaltenders Ryan Atkinson and Colin Jeffrey held their opponents to 40 goals against in six games for a team 6.67 goals against average. Evan Wray was named the Team BC tournament all-star.

“The coaching staff this year was very proud of the team for their bronze medal result and how they improved as a team during the week at Nationals,” said coach Rich Catton. “Unfortunately with the lack of practice time and competition leading up to Nationals, it took the team a few games to warm-up to the high level of competition. I would like to thank all of the boys and parents of the 2000 group that participated in the Midget Program over the years for their dedication and friendship. Good luck to all of you in the future.”

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 2016 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.”

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