

Team BC U13 Men's Field Lacrosse



Photo Courtesy: Kory Nelson

Team BC U13 Men's Field Lacrosse Team

The Team BC U13 boy's Field Lacrosse team took to the field and competed at their first tournament, the Adrenaline Lacrosse Tournament in Del Mar (CA) January 2-4, 2015. 127 teams of various age groups from around North America competed at the 3-day event.

In five games, Team BC U13's won three and lost two contests versus some very talented competition. In the opener, the boys lost a lopsided 12-3 game to RC Silver (San Diego). Next, Team BC turned on the jets and warmed up under the California sun beating the Santa Monica Dragons by the same 12-3 score.

In game 3, Team BC was up against a tough Goon Elite (Los Angeles) team. The U13's battled in a close match to an 8-6 victory and advanced to the quarter finals. In game 4, Factory Select (Palos Verdes, CA) gave Team BC all they could handle and won their third game in a row 7-5. In the semi-finals, Team BC lost 15-3 to the eventual tournament champs, Legacy TAZ (NY).

"I feel we were well-prepared with over 15 hours of training," stated Head Coach Daren Fridge. "Some of the clubs in attendance were creative with their age groupings and our greatest struggle was at the faceoff 'X'. Four of our draw men were the best BC had to offer at the 12 year old level. On this particular stage, we won very few draws and had to take a more defensive approach to face-offs."

Coach Fridge was quite impressed with the lacrosse talent at the tournament with a major influx of US select lacrosse programs. The days of living off our boxla talent alone in the field are gone and our athletes need to continue to learn the nuances of the field game to compete at a high level.

"The tables have really balanced out regarding the competition level of middle school-aged players on the west coast of the US," noted Fridge. "Canadian youth teams used to win based on their stick skills alone because of how young we were when we got a stick in our hands. This is not the case anymore. There was not a weak team in the tournament; BC's best were challenged in almost every game."

In year two of the U13 Field program, Team BC Program changed the age groups (from U14 to U13) to aligned with the High School grades used in tournaments. This allowed for a much more even playing field, rather than playing older competitors. The young athletes learned about high performance Field Lacrosse against stiff competition, albeit in the same age group.

Team BC Field Lacrosse Coordinator, Reynold Comeault, was impressed with the U13's preparations and what this investment will mean in the years to come. All these experiences will prove a benefit to the entire Team BC family in the long-term growth of athletes and coaches for future competitions.

"Coach Fridge had the team as organized as possible working on all facets of the game for the few training session that occurred following the busy PCFLL Fall schedule," explained Comeault. "Team BC's support of young players for this experience will pay dividends in the future. Players are afforded the opportunity to play at the highest level with the best players of their age group in the province."

"All reports from our parents have been very positive," said Fridge. "The players made new friendships from around the province and were treated very well by our management staff. Special thanks to Johnny Dale, our manager who organized an exciting and well organized experience for our players."