

Box Lacrosse Nationals 2011

Team BC Teams Dig for Gold in BC and Ontario



**2011 Team BC Female Midget Team
Silver Medalist**



**2011 Team BC Female Bantam Team
Silver Medalist**

The 2011 Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget Bantam National lacrosse tournament took place July 31 - August 6 at Iroquois Park in Whitby, Ontario, while the Female Bantams and Midgets hosted the all-female nationals July 23-28 in New Westminster.

Team BC Female Midgets

The Midgets ran the board winning all 6 games in the round-robin outscoring their opponents 56-12. While Team Alberta proved to be a formidable opponent giving BC a good run, it was Ontario that made BC play at the top of their game. BC beat Ontario by scores of 5-4 and 4-2 in the round-robin and set the table for a gold medal game rematch.

Team BC Female Midgets started the finals behind the 8-ball as Ontario scored 1:04 into the game for a quick lead. Ontario went into a defensive shell swarming the BC offense while throwing a zone defensive scheme at BC. BC was turned away constantly leading to only outside perimeter shots and very few quality scoring chances. Ontario built a 3-0 lead until Team BC's Kaity Vanderkooy scored their first and only goal at the 19:10 mark of the second frame to make the score 3-1. BC gave it their all to the finish but it wasn't enough on that day as they fell short in the finals losing 3-1 to Ontario. Kyra Bradley and Rianne Wilkinson were honoured as tournament all-stars.

"The commitment level of the girls was probably the best of any team, I have been involved with," stated head coach Dan Stroup. "They all worked hard and always gave their best. I thought we dominated throughout the tournament, unfortunately, we lost at the wrong time. I was very proud of the girls, my only disappointment was for them, as I felt they deserved to win but that's sports."

Team BC Female Bantams

The Bantams won 5 games in the round-robin dropping only one to Ontario. In the round-robin, BC outscored Alberta 20-2 in two games; Team Atlantic 18-0 in two games; and Ontario 5-4, but split the games with Ontario, losing the second match 3-2.

Once again the Female Bantams were positioned well in the gold medal game versus archrival Ontario. BC's Bianca Santucci opened the scoring 4:25 into the match only to have Ontario answer with a power play goal four minutes later. BC ended the period with an Amie Morrison goal to make the score 2-1. Ontario knotted the game at 2-2 in the middle frame leaving only 20 minutes to decide a Bantam National champion. Team Ontario's Alexis Kinmond finished her natural hat trick scoring at the 5:45 mark for Ontario's first lead of the game and less than three minutes later, Ontario took a 4-2 lead. BC answered quickly with a goal by Jolene Robinson to make it a one goal game, but Ontario would hold on to win a hard fought final game 4-3. BC's Amie Morrison and Harlowe Steele were selected to the tournament all-star team.

"The girls were fantastic throughout the tournament and deserved to win," stated head coach Duncan Shanks. "To put it in perspective, we were simply one loose ball, one post, one save or one shot away from being champs."