

## Team BC U14 Men's Field Lacrosse



### Team BC U14 Men's Field Lacrosse Team - Del Mar, CA

2017 marked the return of the Team BC U14 boys Field Lacrosse Program. The U14's attended the Sandstorm tournament in Indio, California over the January 13-14 weekend.

Nearly 160 boy's teams of various age groups from around the western regions competed at the 2-day event. Miles of fields and thousands of lacrosse enthusiasts lined the fields for two days of action. Returning Head Coach Steven McKinlay has added assistants Vinni Ricci and Ryan Ishakawa to the staff. They trained the young athletes for weeks prior in preparations for Sand Storm.

Coach McKinlay and was pleasantly surprised with the team preparation and the seeing the growth of the athletes week by week.

"The growth of the team was huge," noted Head Coach Steven McKinlay. "Their understanding of our systems showed a lot of maturity and lacrosse IQ. The chemistry of the team grew exponentially and peaked at the end of the tournament. These kids really enjoyed playing for each other and it is too bad that it had to end. The coaching staff looks forward to working with this group again."

The Team BC U14's were near the top in their category and ended up with a record of 3 wins, 1 loss and 1 tie in the Tahquitz Division. In the opener, the boys took some time to get their legs and fell short to a good LA Mavericks team in a 6-2 loss. They quickly got down to business and rebounded with a decisive 8-4 victory over Palo Verde Lacrosse Rough Riders (Los Angeles, CA). In the last game of the day Team BC continued to roll and stayed hot under the California sun and doubled DOCO Lacrosse Devils (CO) 6-3.

On day two of the tournament, Team BC started their day off scoring at will and handily defeated the Newport Beach Surf 11-2. The U14's headed into the final game of the day with hopes of moving into the final games, but could only muster a 4-4 draw with a tough So Cal Lacrosse Dawgs (CA).

This was the U14's first trip to the Sandstorm tournament and the first as a U14 squad. Team BC Field Lacrosse Technical Co-ordinator, Reynold Comeault, was impressed with the U14 level of play and what the athletes have learned in two years under Coach McKinlay's tutelage.

"Coaches Steve McKinley (Head Coach), Vinni Ricci and Ryan Ishakawa (Assistant Coaches), prepared our group in every aspect of the game and the organization of our group was evident," said Comeault. "Our objective was to expose our skilled athletes to the highest level of competition and I couldn't be more pleased with the caliber of our play -- Team BC performed very well."

The results on the field cannot be overlooked by the preparations behind the scenes. "I would be remiss to not mention the support I had from Gord Kask and Alex Vanichuk that made the entire process easy," mentioned McKinlay. "I admire the time these two put in as volunteers -- they are role models for other parents who want to support their athletes. My assistants, Ryan Ishikawa and Vinni Ricci, are two of the best lacrosse minds I have worked with and men of great character. I hope to work with this staff again."

The parents were especially impressive and many praises were noted for their help, whether it was driving equipment bags back and forth from the fields, hosting a BBQ, loading coolers full of gatorade and snacks, billeting the island players or just showing up and supporting the players at games.

Coach McKinlay's message to his athletes is about being ones best all the time.

"I'd ask them to remember that excellence is not something that just happens. It is the result of good habits. The best players are the best because they play with discipline, intensity, and focus for a longer duration than their peers."