

Canadian in the NCAA – Week 4

As good as Gold!

This past week was another exciting one for fans of NCAA lacrosse although it is doubtful that many fans north of the border were paying that close attention. Northern laxers and lovers of back bacon, *Tim Horton's* coffee, and *SCTV* re-runs were more fixated on hockey than lacrosse this past weekend and this is entirely justifiable given the importance of Sunday's Olympic hockey final. Perhaps the most fascinating part of Team Canada's Gold medal victory was the outstanding contribution made by some of the younger players on the team. This is a nice segue into week 4 of the NCAA as the story from the past week from a Canadian perspective was the performance of this year's rookie class. While many of our veteran players had good weekends, rookies such as Schuss, Melnyk, Matthews, Flint, Palmer, Mann, Sorichetti, Flint, Noble, Lachlan and Comeau were absolutely golden with performances that perhaps foreshadow future greatness not just at the NCAA level but maybe even with future Team Canada's. Here goes my recap from week 4.

Canadian rookies are finding the back of the cage!

The story of week 4 in the NCAA from a Canadian perspective has been the fireworks generated by our crop of rookies. In 2010 there are 44 Canadian freshmen on Division I rosters and thus far the scoring numbers have been impressive. Starting out this week's scoring derby was Johns Hopkins rookie Zach Palmer (Oshawa) who scored 2 goals in the Blue Jay's win over Delaware. The Ohio State versus Detroit-Mercy game also had some great freshman performances with Logan Schuss (Delta) scoring 3 goals and 3 assists for the Buckeyes while Detroit Mercy's Joel Matthews (St Catherine's) scored 5 goals in the loss. In South Carolina, Presbyterian rookie Tyler Melnyk (Calgary) scored 2 goals and 2 assist in a big win over Providence while Cameron Mann (Hamilton) scored 4 goals for Jacksonville in a tough loss to VMI. Kirby Zdrill (Edmonton) scored his first NCAA goal for Yale this past weekend while Travis Comeau (Ponoka) picked up 2 goals and an assist in Georgetown's 15-13 loss to Maryland. Adrian Sorichetti (Whitby) also had an impressive start to his NCAA career with a goal and 2 assists in a loss to Princeton. Finally, Denver's Cam Flint (Georgetown) continues to score in bunches with 3 goals in a win over Albany while Cornell long pole Jason Noble (Orangeville) grabbed three ground balls in his rookie debut against Hobart.

Other notable performance in Division I

While rookies were stealing the show, there were still several notable performances by upper classmen last week. Delaware beat Hartford 11-9 in a game featuring several Canucks, with Curtis Dickson (Port Coquitlam) scoring 4 goals and 2 assist for the Blue Hens and Aiden Genik (Toronto), Michael Cudmore (Ashburn) and Carter Bender (Caledon) each scoring for Hartford. Hofstra lost a tough one to Princeton but Jaime Lincoln (St Catherines), who transferred in from Denver this year scored 4 goals and an assist while Jay Card (Caledon) had 2 goals and 2 assists in the loss. Robert Morris squeaked by a much improved Manhattan on the weekend with Trevor Moore (Port Coquitlam) putting up 2 goals and adding 4 assists in the win. Corbyn Tao-Brambleby (Coquitlam) also had a hat trick in the game. Due to weather, Syracuse University hosted two games on Sunday night. In the first, "Cuse" beat Army with Stephen Keogh (Toronto Beaches) potting 4 goals while Cody Jamieson (Six Nations) added 2 assists. In the second game, Cornell beat Hobart 10-7 with Mitch McMichael (Port Perry) scoring 2 goals and Jon

Thomson (Orangeville) adding a goal and an assist. Finally, in Denver's win over Albany 17-13, Mark Matthews (Oshawa) scored 2 goals for the Pioneers while Albany's Dave Brock (Burlington) had 3 goals and an assist in a losing effort.

Kyle O'Brien was the story in Division II this week

For a variety of reasons, Division II was quiet from a Canadian perspective last week. The few notable performances last week included Kyle O'Brien's (Whitby) 5 goal and 2 assist showing in a 13-8 win over St. Andrews. Mercyhurst had a good outing against Wingate with Kyle Kallay (Orangeville) and Cameron McLean (Victoria) each scoring 2 goals. Meanwhile, Braden Artem scored 2 goals and an assist in Catawba's loss to Saint Leo.

McQuade, Quinton, Lachlan, and Midwinter lighting it up in Division III while Crawford stands on his head in goal.

Whittier's Daniel McQuade is really starting to rack up the points. McQuade scores 7 goals in win over Southern Maine in week 3 and scored 4 goals and 3 assists in a 15-3 win over Grand Canyon. Matt Quinton and rookie Richard Lachlan also continue to score big with Roanoke. In a 30-2 win over Randolph, Quinton scored 5 goals and an assist while Lachlan added 3 goals and 2 assist. On the weekend, in a game against Franklin and Marshall Quinton scored 5 goals while Lachlan added a pair. Finally, Ty Midwinter scored 4 goals and 2 assists and Jason Crawford stopped 14 shots as Randolph Macon defeated Wesley.

Games upcoming – Consider an NCAA and NLL double header

Although the weather is expected to be quite cold this week, there are several games of interest for those who love lacrosse regardless of the weather. Tomorrow, Canisius hosts Cornell at 4PM in Buffalo. On Saturday, one can choose from either Army at Cornell or Hobart at Colgate. On Sunday, Quinnipiac travels to Detroit and this would be a great game for fans from the Windsor/Sarnia area to attend. For box lacrosse fans, the Toronto Rock are in Buffalo Saturday night so it is quite possible to combine an NCAA game (Cornell) and catch an NLL game on the way back home.

Final thoughts – March has arrived

We are now into March. Starting line-ups are starting to solidify and key games in terms of national rankings are now in sight. This is the time of year when NCAA lacrosse starts to become really interesting. Weather permitting; this should be a pretty exciting weekend of lacrosse.

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