

Canadians in the NCAA – week 9

In a week in which several Canadian's put up multi-goal performances, Drexel freshman Robert Church served notice that there is a new sniper in the game that is capable of putting up a huge number on unsuspecting defenses. Besides Church, other Canadians who put up big offensive stats this past week include O'Brien, the Farmer brothers, Clevely, Card, Brock, Lincoln, Tao Brambleby, McBride, Campbell and Keogh. However, in this week's edition of Canadians in the NCAA we will also talk about some of the Canadians putting up impressive defensive statistics. These include players like Houtby, Noble, Sealock, Coates, Rubisch, Woods, Marrese, Pecchia, Kiekebelt, MacRae, Longland and MacDonald. From a Canadian perspective here is a recap of the week that was in the NCAA. .

Robert Church is just another rookie from Coquitlam! Yeah right!

The Drexel Dragons have knocked off too many good teams this year to be considered anything less than a superb team. Freshman Robert Church (Coquitlam) has certainly played a role in this success, having scored 17 goals in nine games leading up to this weekend's action. However, on Saturday Church was totally in the zone, scoring seven of his teams 11 goals in a come-from-behind win over #8 Hofstra. Jamie Lincoln (St Catherines) had 3 goals and 3 assists and Adrian Sorchetti (Whitby) had 3 goals in the losing effort for Hofstra. Robert Morris is now back on another winning streak thanks in part to Corbyn Tao Brambleby (Coquitlam) who scored 5 goals against Air Force in a 13 to 7 win. The kids from Stony Brook were similarly on, with Jordan McBride (New West) scoring 6 goals, Kevin Crowley (New West) scoring 3 goals and 2 assists, and Robbie Campbell (Delta) adding a goal and 4 assists in a 14 to 11 win over UMBC. Dave Brock (Burlington) continues to find the back of the net, scoring 4 goals in an 11 -10 Albany win over Hartford. Hartford subsequently got back in the win column with Aiden Genik (Toronto Beaches) scoring 3 goals and an assist in a one goal victory over state rival Quinnipiac. Denver beat Hobart 17-13 and Mark Mathews (Oshawa) had 3 goals and an assist in the win while Brian Neufeld (Virgil) scored 4 goals in Siena's 9-8 win over Detroit – Mercy. Syracuse picked up a couple of wins last week with Stephen Keogh (Toronto Beaches) scoring 3 goals and assist in a win over Villanova, and another 3 goals and an assist in a win over Albany. Canisius picked up its second win of the season over St Joe's with Adam Jones (Owen Sound) potting a hat trick and Simon Giourmetakis (Edmonton) adding 2 goals and an assist.

This week we will look at both offensive and defensive statistics

In looking at player's statistics this week, we have added to the usual offensive categories (goals and assist) two defensive categories, namely ground balls (GB) and caused turnovers (CT). These two statistical categories give a broader sense of how the defense contributes to a winning team's performance and also shows the contribution that some offensive players can make when their team does not have the ball. If we add together a players offensive scoring stats plus ground balls and caused turnovers (times 2) we arrive at a number that I call a players total impact points (TIP) which I then divide by the number of games the player has played. The TIP therefore consists of the total offensives and defensive points a player scores in a game with a goal and an assist being an offensive point and ground ball or a caused turnover being a defensive point.

Players such as Mann, Houtby, Buchanan, Sealock and Noble are making it happen on the defensive side of center

Looking at Division I statistics below, we see that many (but not all) of the top offensive players also possess great defensive statistics. However, several players with low or modest offensive numbers rise to the top of the overall rankings because their defensive achievements have been so strong. Jacksonville's Cameron Mann (Hamilton) is the first name that stands out. His offensive statistics are solid but his 38 ground balls and 7 caused turnovers imply that he must be a superb two-way player. Jordan Houtby (St Catherines) has modest offensive numbers but he leads all rookies in the NCAA with 23 caused turnovers and his 34 ground balls are also near the top of his cohort. Robert Morris University has a number of players that can score in bunches but the defensive statistics of a couple of its gifted middies suggest that a great offense starts with a very good defense. Kyle Buchanan (Nepean) and Jordan Sealock (Airdrie) are each putting up strong defensive stats in terms of both ground balls and caused turnovers. Finally, Cornell freshman defender Jason Noble (Orangeville) was recently voted rookie of the week in the Ivey League and his defensive stats support the notion that Noble is an emerging defensive star. So far this year Noble has grabbed 29 ground balls and has 17 caused turnovers to his credit in 9 games. Canada's top 40 players in Division I as ranked by TIP are presented below.

NCAA Div I - Leading Canadian Scorers - Ranked by TFP										
Rank	Player	School	Hometown	Year	GP	G	A	GB	CT	TFP
1	Curtis Dickson	Delaware	Port Coquillam	Senior	10	38	11	27	11.0	9.8
2	Joel Matthews	Detroit	St Catharines	Freshman	10	30	9	23	13.0	8.8
3	Cameron Mann	Jacksonville	Hamilton	Freshman	9	13	8	38	7.0	8.1
4	Kevin Crowley	Stony Brook	New West	Junior	9	26	16	29	1.0	8.1
5	Jordan Houlby	Detroit	St Catharines	Freshman	10	1	0	34	23.0	8.1
6	Jaime Lincoln	Ho Isira	St Catharines	Junior	7	21	14	19	0.0	7.7
7	Adam Jones	Canisius	Owen Sound	Junior	6	12	5	15	7.0	7.7
8	Jay Card	Ho Isira	Caledon	Junior	6	16	12	17	0.0	7.5
9	Kyle Buchanan	Robert Morris	Nepean	Sophomore	8	6	11	23	10.0	7.5
10	Jordan Sealock	Robert Morris	Aidrie	Senior	9	0	3	26	18.0	7.2
11	Jason Noble	Cornell	Orangeville	Freshman	9	0	0	29	17.0	7.0
12	Dan Cortes	Canisius	St Catharines	Senior	6	0	0	20	10.0	6.7
13	Cody Jamieson	Syracuse	Six Nations	Senior	8	12	8	22	5.0	6.5
14	Jordan McBride	Stony Brook	New West	Junior	9	37	6	15	0.0	6.4
15	Ryan Senville	Jacksonville	Toronto	Freshman	9	21	19	13	2.0	6.3
16	Trevor Moore	Robert Morris	Port Coquillam	Junior	9	21	18	15	1.0	6.2
17	Michael Cudmore	Harford	Ashburn	Junior	9	5	9	31	5.0	6.1
18	Tyler Michyk	Presbyterian	Calgary	Freshman	8	17	6	13	4.0	5.5
19	Bryan Neufeld	Sienna	VigilNiagra	Sophomore	8	26	2	14	1.0	5.5
20	Stephen Keogh	Syracuse	Toronto	Junior	8	22	2	17	0.0	5.1
21	Derek Hopcroft	Bellarmine	Toronto	Senior	10	14	5	17	7.0	5.0
22	Karsen Leung	Bellarmine	Victoria	Sophomore	10	2	2	30	8.0	5.0
23	Corbyn Tao-Brambleby	Robert Morris	Coquillam	Junior	9	23	7	15	0.0	5.0
24	Aidan Genik	Harford	Toronto	Sophomore	9	25	5	8	3.0	4.9
25	Dave Brock	Albany	Burlington	Senior	9	19	3	19	1.0	4.8
26	Jarrett Davis	Bellarmine	Port Moody	Senior	10	9	14	12	6.0	4.7
27	AJ Masson	Vermont	Newmarket	Freshman	8	2	0	22	6.0	4.5
28	Kiel Matisz	Robert Morris	Stoney Creek	Sophomore	9	20	12	6	1.0	4.4
29	Logan Schuss	Ohio State	Della	Freshman	9	15	15	6	1.0	4.2
30	Nick Soubry	Sacred Heart	Oakville	Freshman	6	0	0	9	8.0	4.2
31	Travis Comeau	Georgetown	Red Deer	Freshman	8	17	1	13	1.0	4.1
32	Robert Church	Drexel	Coquillam	Freshman	10	24	3	10	2.0	4.1
33	Michael Howe	Cornell	St Catharines	Senior	1	0	0	2	1.0	4.0
34	Matt MacKenzie	Albany	Spruce Grove	Freshman	9	1	2	31	0.0	3.8
35	Kyle Bellon	Stony Brook	Langley	Sophomore	9	11	3	16	2.0	3.8
36	Robbie Campbell	Stony Brook	Della	Sophomore	9	10	8	10	2.0	3.6
37	Carr Flint	Denver	Georgetown	Freshman	7	15	1	7	0.0	3.3
38	Chase Williams	Bellarmine	Vancover	Senior	10	11	15	4	0.0	3.0
39	Mark Matthews	Denver	Oshawa	Sophomore	10	17	4	6	0.0	2.7
40	Carter Bender	Harford	Caledon	Sophomore	9	8	12	3	0.0	2.6

Source: Team websites, Total In part Points (TFP) = (G+A+GB+(2*CT))/Games Played

A good week for Dowling, Mars Hill and Limestone

Dowling continues to play well of late as evidenced by its 21 to 8 win over Molloy this week. Kyle O'Brien (Whitby) had 2 goals and 6 assists in the win while John McClure (Brampton) scored 4 goals, and Kyle Rubisch (Brampton) added a goal, an assist, three ground balls and a caused turnover. Limestone had a strong outing over St. Andrews whom they beat 18 to 5 with Riley Loewen (Burnaby) scoring a hat trick and adding an assist. Mars Hill had two big wins with Ty Farmer (Calgary) scoring 5 goals in the win over Wingate with brother Danny adding 2 goals and 4 assists and Eric Benesch (Bloomington) adding 2 goals and 2 assists. A few days later Mars Hill beat Florida Southern 11 to 6 with Danny Farmer scoring 6 goals and an assists, Eric Benesch added a pair of goals and assist and TJ Cowx adding 2 goals and an assist. Finally,

Bal Keegan (Coquitlam) scored 2 goals and 2 assist in leading Lake Erie to a win over Chestnut Hill.

Rubisch is arguably the most impactful Canadian in Division II

Looking at Div II statistics from a more balanced perspective, we see as was the case in Division I that many of the top scorers appear near the top of the TIP standings. However, our statistical model suggests that the most impactful Canadian in Division II is not an offensive player but in fact a long pole. Kyle Rubisch anchors the Dowling defense and while he has scored a goal and an assists it is his 34 ground balls and 18 caused turnovers in seven games that make him so impactful to his team. Incidentally, Rubisch was voted the top defenseman in the Ontario junior league this past summer so Rubisch's defensive performance in the NCAA is consistent with his performance in Canadian box leagues. Two other players of interested are Mars Hill's Kevin Woods (Newmarket) and Chris Cudmore (Whitby). While the likes of the Farmer Brothers, Eric Benesch and T.J. Cowx (Delta) have been putting up huge offensive numbers at Mars Hill, players like Woods and Cudmore have provided the defensive catalyst which is often the starting point for the offensive. Similarly, Dave Marrese (St Albert) has put up strong defensive numbers at Dominican College. Finally, note that player #19 on the list below, Michael Pecchia (Coquitlam) is a goalie. How can you not love a goalie that that has snagged 27 ground balls and caused 4 turnovers in 9 games!

NCAA Div II - Leading Canadian Scorers - Ranked by TIP										
Rank	Player	School	Hometown	Year	GP	G	A	GB	CT	TIP
1	Kyle Rubisch	Dowling	Brampton	Senior	7	1	1	34	18	10.3
2	Kyle O'Brien	Dowling	Whitby	Senior	7	16	20	18	2	8.3
3	John McClure	Dowling	Brampton	Senior	6	26	2	14	3	8.0
4	Alex Jones	Dominican Coll.	StAlbert	Junior	7	18	6	28	1	7.7
5	Danny Farmer	Mars Hill	Calgary	Senior	12	31	21	25	2	6.8
6	Drew Comeau	Notre Dame (CA)	Red Deer	Senior	8	12	13	21	1	6.0
7	Eric Benesch	Mars Hill	Bloomington	Junior	12	29	14	22	3	5.9
8	Kevin Woods	Mars Hill	Newmarket	Senior	12	3	5	39	11	5.8
9	Braden Arsen	Calweba	Acton	Sophomore	10	26	13	13	1	5.4
10	Dave Marrese	Dominican Coll.	StAlbert	Junior	6	0	1	15	8	5.3
11	Ty Farmer	Mars Hill	Calgary	Junior	12	33	9	19	1	5.3
12	Bal Keegan	Lake Erie	Coquitlam	Freshman	5	11	4	9	1	5.2
13	Chris Cudmore	Mars Hill	Whitby	Sophomore	12	3	5	31	11	5.1
14	Tyler Burton	Mercyhurst	London	Senior	8	12	6	11	3	4.4
15	Brandon Miller	Notre Dame (CA)	Calgary	Junior	8	2	0	11	11	4.4
16	Dan MacIsaac	American Int'l	Port Perry	Junior	8	11	4	12	3	4.1
17	Riley Loewen	Limestone	Barnaby	Freshman	8	17	4	10	1	4.1
18	Brandon Ree	StAndrews	Barrie	Sophomore	11	0	0	21	11	3.9
19	Michael Pecchia	Calweba	Coquitlam	Sophomore	9	0	0	27	4	3.9
20	Jackson Decker	Limestone	Port Moody	Sophomore	8	11	5	11	2	3.9
21	Jesse Peterson	Dominican Coll.	Saskatoon	Junior	7	8	6	10	1	3.7
22	T.J.Cowx	Mars Hill	Delta	Sophomore	12	12	13	14	1	3.4
23	Cameron McLean	Mercyhurst	Victoria	Junior	7	12	5	2	2	3.3
24	Cade Zuk	Mars Hill	Ajax	Sophomore	12	11	5	18	1	3.0
25	Kyle Kallry	Mercyhurst	Orangeville	Sophomore	7	11	1	5	2	3.0

Source: Team websites, Total Impact Points (TIP) = (G+A+GB+(2*CT))/Games Played

In Division III – RIT loses a heartbreaker while Clevely scores big

RIT has been playing very well of late but this past weekend the Tigers lost a heartbreaker to #4 Cortland 12 to 11 in overtime. Sean Gilles (Oakville) scored 3 goals in the loss for RIT. Adrian had a better weekend, beating Mt St Joe 23 to 14 with DJ Clevely (Orangeville) scoring 4 goals and adding 5 assists. Tyler Tanguay (Port Colborne) had 4 goals and T.J. Cook (Caledon) added 2 goals and 2 assist in the Adrian win. Randolph Macon won two games this week and Ty Midwinter (Hamilton) had three points in each game. Finally, Roanoke beat Virginia Wesleyan 11 to 4 and Richard Lachlan (Port Coquitlam) had 3 goals and an assist while Matt Quinton (Elora) added a hat trick,

RIT is loaded with Canadian's who can play defence

From a statistical perspective, the picture in Division III from a TIP perspective is similarly to Division I and II with several top defenders interspersed among the top goal scorers. In terms of players with strong defensive statistics, RIT appears to be loaded. RIT midfielder MJ Kiekebelt (Caledon) and long pole Dan MacCrae (Oakville) each have superb defensive stats in relation to their cohort. Potsdam's Ben McCullough (Brampton) also has great two way numbers, averaging close to 2 offensive points and 4 defensives points per game. Tom Langland (Dunnville) of Morrisville State and Bradon MacDonald (Midhurst) at Adrian round out the top Canadian defenders in Division III.

NCAA Div III - Leading Canadian Scorers - Ranked by TIP										
Rank	Player	School	Hometown	Year	GP	G	A	GB	CT	TIP
1	MJ Kiekebelt	RIT	Caledon	Junior	9	5	0	42	26	11.0
2	Keegan Bowman	Colgate	NewWest	Sophomore	6	19	14	25	2	10.3
3	Dan MacCrae	RIT	Oakville	Senior	9	0	0	33	24	9.0
4	Jordan McIntosh	RIT	Oakville	Junior	9	23	9	28	7	8.2
5	Daniel McQuade	Whitler	NewWest	Sophomore	9	28	9	23	7	8.2
6	Brad Lewick	Elmira	Newmarket	Senior	8	34	14	11	3	8.1
7	Tyler Midwinter	Randolph Macon	Hamilton	Sophomore	9	26	11	28	4	8.1
8	Sean Gilles	RIT	Oakville	Senior	9	20	4	30	7	7.6
9	Ben McCullough	Potsdam	Brampton	Senior	8	8	8	34	4	7.3
10	Rick Acorn	Elmira	Barrie	Sophomore	5	10	7	19	0	7.2
11	Tom Langland	Morrisville State	Dunnville	Sophomore	6	0	0	18	11	6.7
12	Brandon MacDonald	Adrian	Midhurst	Freshman	7	2	0	28	7	6.3
13	DJ Clevely	Adrian	Orangeville	Sophomore	7	12	21	5	0	5.4
14	Aaron Fill	Becker	Ladner	Senior	8	18	3	16	2	5.1
15	Matt Quinton	Roanoke	Elora	Senior	12	30	8	21	0	4.9
16	TJ Cook	Adrian	Caledon	Sophomore	7	13	4	13	1	4.6
17	Mitch Barnard	Adrian	Barrie	Sophomore	7	5	2	19	1	4.0
18	Jason Cranford	Randolph Macon	Burlington	Sophomore	5	0	0	11	4	3.8
19	Tyler Tanguay	Adrian	Port Colborne	Sophomore	7	15	1	8	1	3.7
20	Richard Lachlan	Roanoke	Port Coquitlam	Freshman	12	24	5	13	0	3.5

Source: Team websites, Total Impact Points (TIP) = (G+A+GB+(2*CT))/Games Played

Games upcoming

There are a number of exciting games upcoming for Canadian lacrosse fans in Southern Ontario. Next Saturday Cornell hosts Harvard and there will be a large Canadian contingent at that game. The Cornell game is at 3:00PM and for the adventuresome, Colgate hosts Lehigh at 7:00PM and UMBC plays at Binghamton at 7:00PM. For those who want something closer to home, Canisius hosts Marist at 11:00AM, Hobart hosts Ohio State at 1:00PM and for those who live in Southwestern Ontario, Detroit Mercy hosts Mount St Mary's at 1:00PM.

Final Thoughts

While the NCAA season has been up and running for a couple of months now, field lacrosse in Ontario is just getting started this weekend. For those who want to check out some high end youth lacrosse, the Jammer Classic is on this weekend. The tournament is held in honor of Jamieson Kuhlman, who played for the Toronto Beaches and the Hill Academy and dreamed one day of playing in the NCAA. It's kind of become the unofficial start of the Canadian field season and the tournament has a really nice feel to it – hope to see some of you there on Friday.

J.P. Donville