



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

PRESS RELEASE

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Fraser opens season with 18-3 win over Western Washington

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

By William Howard, *SFU Lacrosse Media Relations*

Simon Fraser University Men's Lacrosse

(Photographer: Darcy Biagioni)

Event: Men's Lacrosse

Site: Burnaby Lake Sports Complex West, Burnaby, British Columbia

Score: #4 Simon Fraser University 18, Western Washington (PNCLL Div. II) 3

Record: SFU (1-0, 0-0 PNCLL Div. I), WWU (1-1, 0-0 PNCLL Div. II)

Next SFU Game: Friday, March 5, 2010, 7:00pm MST - vs. #11 Colorado State University – Denver, CO (Shea Stadium)

BURNABY, BC (February 8, 2010) Simon Fraser opened the 2010 regular season on Saturday, February 6 with a convincing 18-3 win over regional PNCLL Division II opponent Western Washington. With the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games less than a week away, the Clan and Vikings squared off in surprisingly spring like conditions (11C/52F and sunny), as approximately 150 fans gathered at Burnaby Lake Sports Complex West in Burnaby, British Columbia. The Clan were led by senior midfielder Russel Thomas (Nanoose Bay, BC / Ballenas Secondary) with 5 goals and 1 assist and senior attack Adam Foss (Cochrane, AB / Cochrane High School) with 3 goals and 3 assists. The victory marked SFU's sixth consecutive win, in six season openers under current Co-Head Coaches Jeff Cathrea and Brent Hoskins.

SFU was forced to be patient early in the contest as Western Washington was able to settle the ball off of the game's opening face-off and establish a lengthy first possession. Denying the Vikings of any opportunities, Fraser was able to gain possession after approximately two minutes of play, only to give the ball back to the WWU on a forced pass. It would not take the Clan long to settle the play back in their favor and SFU would use the game's first man-up opportunity to take a 1-0 lead as Kevin Riley (Coquitlam, BC / Gleneagle Secondary) assisted on a goal by Ben Towner (Port Coquitlam, BC / Terry Fox Secondary). Towner, the MCLA leader in goals-per-game in 2009, would be quick to strike again, this time on a feed from Foss to make the score 2-0. Continuing their strong offensive play, Western would finally solve the Fraser defense as William Delius (Bainbridge Island, WA / Bainbridge High School) fed an open Kian Farahani (Lake Sammamish, WA / Skyline High School) to capitalize on a Clan breakdown and close the score at 2-1.



#4 Simon Fraser faced-off with the Western Washington Vikings (PNCLL Division II) on Saturday, February 6 to kick-off the Clan's 2010 season in Burnaby, BC.

Immediately following the Viking goal, the officials would conduct a random stick check and the SFU short stick defender was found to be using an illegal stick (under 40"). The Clan received a three-minute un-releasable penalty and Western appeared poised to cash-in on the man-advantage. Fraser's man-down unit came out strong, stretching the Viking extra-man offense to the perimeter of the box and limiting any potential shooting opportunities. The Clan would eventually force a WWU turnover and kill off the remaining time left in the penalty. The "kill" would seemingly shift the momentum back in SFU's favor and Fraser's transitional play would prove to be too much for the Vikings. The Clan would open up a four-goal lead as Foss, Thomas and Chris Tessarolo (New Westminster, BC / New Westminster Secondary) each scored their first of the season to end the first quarter at a score of 5-1.

Junior, Dean Stewart (Duncan, BC / Claremont Secondary) got the start for the Clan in goal. Mainly untested in the first quarter, Stewart would play the opening 15:00 minutes, making 1 save.

Fraser would once again open the scoring to start the second frame, as Foss scored his second of the day on a feed from junior Bryan Scott (Guelph, ON / John F. Ross Collegiate) who rotated in on attack to begin the quarter. With SFU now controlling the play, freshmen Stu Mills (Campbell River, BC / Timberline Secondary) scored the first goal of his collegiate career to make the score 7-1. Thomas would then score his second of the day to end the first half with a score of 8-1.

Fraser would register 13 shots in both the first and second quarters for a first half total of 26. Despite allowing 8 goals against, Western goaltender Ian LaBelle (Lake Sammamish, WA / Skyline High School) was impressive in the Viking net making several quality saves to hold the Clan shooters at bay and keep the score within reason. Labelle, a junior, played the opening 30:00 minutes for WWU, making 11 saves in total. Senior goaltender Mike Ripley (Saskatoon, SK / E.D. Feehan High School) stepped-in to replace Stewart for the Clan, playing all 15:00 minutes of the second quarter.

With their bench now gaining some valuable experience, SFU did not take its foot off the gas pedal in the second half as the Clan continued to prepare for what will be one of the nation's toughest schedules in 2010. Fraser would score the first five goals of the third quarter, part of an 11-0 Clan run, to put the Vikings down 13-1. Refusing to give-up, Western was finally able to get back on the board; this time it was Farahani feeding Delius to beat the Clan keeper and reset the score at 13-2. SFU would tally once more to close out the quarter, as Towner completed the hattrick to make the score 14-2.

Ripley would stay in the Clan net to start the second half before giving-way to freshmen goaltender Kyle Middleton (Nanaimo, BC / Woodlands Secondary) just over half way through the third quarter. Ripley played 23:00 minutes in total for SFU, making 4 saves with no goals against.

The fourth quarter would once again belong to SFU as the Clan scored five unanswered goals to extend their lead to 18-2. With SFU called on a delay of game penalty with under a minute to play, Western would own the final goal of the game as Farahani scored his second of the day, this time on the man-up, for a final score of 18-3.

Middleton played the entire fourth quarter for the Clan, ending the day with 4 saves and 2 goals against in the first 22:00 minutes of his collegiate career. Freshmen Eli Patmont also saw his first collegiate action, playing the final 30:00 minutes in goal for Western. Facing 15 Clan shots, Patmont made 5 saves, while allowing 10 goals against.

Dealt a unique scheduling challenge caused by the 2010 Winter Olympics, the Clan will now take a twenty-six-day break from competition before re-opening their season in Colorado where they will face #11 Colorado State on March 5 and #7 Colorado on March 7. These two games will be part of a challenging month of March for the Clan where they will face six out-of-conference opponents in total. All six of Fraser's March opponents are currently ranked in the Top 20 (March 12 @ #1 Michigan; March 14 @ #20 Michigan State; March 20 vs. #3 Brigham Young; March 27 vs. #10 Cal Poly), including four ranked in the Top 10.

For further information on Simon Fraser men's lacrosse please visit www.sfulacrosse.com or follow the Clan on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/fraserlacrosse>.

| SCORE BY QUARTER | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Total |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| Simon Fraser | 5 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 18 |
| Western Washington | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 |

NOTES

- Nine SFU players registered points: Thomas 5g, 1a; Foss 3g, 3a; Towner 3g, 3a; Scott 1g, 2a; Mills 2g; Riley 2a; Tessarolo 2g; Rick Bezuidenhout (Campbell River, BC / Timberline Secondary) 1g; Eric Ransom (Sherwood Park, AB / Bev Facey High School) 1g.
- The Clan's starting line-up for 2010 featured 1 sophomore, 5 juniors and 4 seniors. 8 freshmen registered their first collegiate minutes.
- All 3 goalies listed on Fraser's 2010 roster saw time between the pipes in the win. In the order that they appeared, junior Stewart played 15:00 minutes, making 1 save with 1 goal against; senior Ripley played 23:00 minutes, making 4 saves with no goals against; freshman Middleton played 22:00 minutes, making 4 saves with 2 goals against. This marks the first time in program history that 3 SFU goalies have registered minutes in the same game.
- Clan freshmen Mills (2g) and Ransom (1g) scored their first collegiate points.
- SFU registered 41 ground balls. Junior long poles Nathan Clare (Ladner, BC / Vancouver College) and Luke Genereux (Port Coquitlam, BC / Terry Fox Secondary) led the way for the Clan with 6 ground balls each, while freshman midfielder Colton Dow (Coquitlam, BC / Heritage Woods Secondary) was second on the team with 5.

- The Clan extended their home winning streak to 15 games dating back to April 1, 2006.
- SFU has won its opening game of the season each year since the inception of the program in 1996, a stretch totaling 15 games.

QUOTES

SFU Co-Head Coach Brent Hoskins

On Western: "We give the Vikings a lot of credit for how they came out and competed today. We were really impressed by the play of both goaltenders and they showed a lot of potential on offense. It is great to see the program at Western Washington continue to get stronger and they are definitely a team to watch in MCLA Division II."

SFU Co-Head Coach Jeff Cathrea

On Simon Fraser and the Clan's outlook on the Olympic Break ahead: "We had a good week of practices this week and it was nice to see our athletes carry that execution forward to our first game. We will look back over the game tape and try to identify any areas where we will need to be better heading into our next game in March. It is going to be very important over the next few weeks (during the Olympic break) that we continue to challenge our players to keep getting better each time we step on the field."

ABOUT SIMON FRASER MEN'S LACROSSE

Simon Fraser University men's lacrosse is in its 15th season and competes in the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association (MCLA). During the 2010 season, 2008 and 2009 PNCLL Coaches of the Year, Jeff Cathrea and Brent Hoskins (6th season), look to lead the Clan into the Pacific Northwest Collegiate Lacrosse League (PNCLL) Final Four Conference Championships for the 13th time in team history. The team has captured eight Conference Titles (1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2008 and 2009) and has earned nine National Championship appearances, placing 2nd in 1999 and most recently reaching the 2008 and 2009 MCLA Quarterfinals. The Clan are proudly sponsored by Harrow Sports and Riddell Helmets.

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