



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

PRESS RELEASE

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No. 23 Simon Fraser defeats No. 11 Cal Poly 9-8 in OT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

By William Howard, *SFU Lacrosse Media Relations*
Simon Fraser University Men's Lacrosse
(Photographer: Ben Johnson)

Event: Men's Lacrosse

Site: Mercer Stadium, New Westminster, BC

Score: #23 Simon Fraser University 9, #11 Cal Poly 8 - OT

Record: SFU (2-5, 0-0 PNCLL), CP (6-4, 2-0 WCLL)

Next SFU Game: Saturday, April 3, 2010, 4:00pm PST - vs. #2 Chapman – Portland, OR (Lakeridge High School)

BURNABY, BC (April 1, 2010) Senior attack Ben Towner (Port Coquitlam, BC / Terry Fox Secondary) scored his fourth goal of the game 1:26 into overtime to lift No. 23 ranked Simon Fraser (2-5, 0-0 PNCLL) to a 9-8 victory over No. 11 Cal Poly (6-4, 2-0 WCLL) at Mercer Stadium in New Westminster, BC. The win improves Fraser to 2-5 on the season and snaps the Clan's five game losing streak, while Cal Poly slips to 6-4.

Despite going down 2-0 to start the out-of-conference matchup, Fraser led at the half for the second straight game. Junior Chris Tessarolo (New Westminster, BC / New Westminster Secondary) scored his only goal of the game to make the score 2-1 at the end of the first quarter. Back-to-back goals by Russel Thomas (NanOOSE Bay, BC / Ballenas Secondary) and Ben Towner accounted for a 3-2 halftime advantage after the Clan held the Mustangs scoreless for the final 19:40 before the break.

Towner scored on the man-up to open the third quarter and extend the Clan lead to two. Matt Rudow (Danville, CA / San Ramon Valley) then scored his second of two goals to bring the Mustangs back to within one at a score 4-3. SFU freshmen Eric Ransom (Sherwood Park, AB / Bev Facey High School) scored his fourth of the season to make the score 5-3 before Cal-Poly answered back with a quick two-goal run at the mid-point of the third quarter to draw the two teams even at a score of 5-5. With Fraser on the man-up, Adam Foss (Cochrane, AB / Cochrane High School) converted a Ben Towner pass to put the Clan ahead 6-5. In a string of penalties to end the third quarter, the Mustangs would go on a man-advantage of their own with three minutes remaining. With Cal Poly looking to re-even the score, it would instead be SFU that once again capitalized on the odd-man situation as Towner and Foss both scored shorthanded, less than 30 seconds apart, to put the Clan up by three heading into the final frame.



#7 Ben Towner scores in overtime to lift No. 23 ranked Simon Fraser to a 9-8 victory over No. 11 Cal Poly.

With a much needed victory in sight, SFU would be unable to hold on to the three-goal lead heading into the fourth quarter, as the Mustangs scored three unanswered goals to force the extra period. Cal Poly midfielder Scott Heberer (Poway, CA / Poway) scored on the man-up just under four minutes in to the fourth quarter to make the score 8-6 before Brian Kovary (Encinitas, CA / La Costa Canyon) closed the Clan lead to one with seven minutes left to play. With the Mustangs pushing to score, the Fraser defense would do a good job of limiting Cal Poly's chances until freshman Kyle Riddle (Pleasanton, CA / Amador Valley) was able to find an opening just off the top of the Clan crease to tie the score at 8-8 in the game's final minute. With 57 seconds still left to play, SFU would gain possession off of the ensuing face-off and call a time-out with 26 seconds on the clock. The Fraser offence would generate one last opportunity to end the game in regulation but a tipped shot from just inside the restraining box would force overtime to decide the close fought contest.

Cal Poly won the only faceoff in overtime but a successful Clan ride would prevent the Mustangs from ever reaching the offensive box. After forcing a turnover in midfield, Fraser would use a quick possession to get the ball to Towner at X. Despite having the ball momentarily dislodged from his stick, the two-time 1st Team All-American would recover the ball at the side of the Cal Poly net before burying a shot over top of the Mustang keeper for the game-winner.

Heberer (3g) and Rudow (2g, 1a) led the Mustangs with three points each, while Riddle (1g, 1a) was also a multi-point scorer in the loss. Goaltender Nick Czapla (Dublin, CA / Dublin) played all four quarters plus overtime for Cal Poly making 8 saves.

Towner led Fraser with six points on 4 goals and 2 assists, while Foss added 2 goals and 2 assists for the Clan. Goaltenders Mike Ripley (Saskatoon, SK / E.D. Feehan High School) and Dean Stewart (Duncan, BC / Claremont Secondary) continued to split time in the SFU net. Ripley played the first 30 minutes for the Clan making 4 saves with 2 goals against while Stewart played the remaining 31:26 including overtime making 7 saves with 6 goals against to earn the combined win.

SCORE BY QUARTER	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
Simon Fraser	1	2	5	0	1	9
Cal Poly	2	0	3	3	0	8

NOTES

- Six SFU players registered points: Towner 4g, 2a; Foss 2g, 2a; Thomas 1g, 1a; Colton Dow (Coquitlam, BC / Heritage Woods Secondary) 1a; Ransom 1g; Tessarolo 1g.

- Fraser registered 36 ground balls. Stewart led SFU with 6 ground balls, while junior defender Nathan Clare (Ladner, BC / Vancouver College) recorded 5 to continue to lead the Clan on the season with 32 groundballs in 7 games.

QUOTES

SFU Co-Head Coach Brent Hoskins

On Cal Poly: "Cal Poly has had a strong start to the season and we knew coming in that they were going to be a tough opponent. Any time that we tried to pull away they seemed to find an answer and kept clawing their way back. They came out strong in the fourth quarter to force extra time and made us earn every bit of the victory. Thanks to Coach Lea and the Mustangs for making the trip up to Vancouver!"

SFU Co-Head Coach Jeff Cathrea

On Simon Fraser: "A lot of our focus the past couple of weeks has been on getting better at doing a lot of the little things that make elite teams successful. Today we did a great job riding Cal Poly in transition and winning a lot of the loose ball battles on the ground. That allowed us to establish more of a rhythm offensively and secure a much needed win against a top opponent."

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.

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>.

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