



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Fraser to face Florida State in First Round of MCLA National Championships

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

By William Howard, *SFU Lacrosse Media Relations*  
Simon Fraser University Men's Lacrosse

BURNABY, BC (May 6, 2010) - The Simon Fraser University men's lacrosse team will face Florida State University in the first round of the 2010 MCLA National Championship Tournament. The 16-team MCLA bracket was announced on Sunday, May 2. The Clan (8-7) are making their 10th appearance at the MCLA National Championships and earned the number ten seed in the tournament. The Seminoles (14-3) are making their 6th appearance in the tournament and enter as the tournament's number seven seed. The game is set for Tuesday, May 11 at 7:00pm MST at Dick's Sporting Goods Park (DSGP) in Denver, Colorado.

The winner of the Simon Fraser-Florida State first round game will play the winner of the Colorado State-Boston College game at DSGP on Wednesday, May 12 as part of the quarterfinal round. Colorado State, who earned the number two seed, will play fifteenth seeded Boston College in the first round on Tuesday, May 11 at 4:00pm MST.

Simon Fraser boasts a 7-9 (.438) all-time record in the MCLA Tournament with one final (1999), one semifinal (1998) and six quarterfinal (1997, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2008, 2009) appearances to their credit. The Clan are one of only eleven teams who have made an MCLA championship-game appearance since the establishment of the national tournament format in 1997, while their ten tournament appearances tie them with UC Santa Barbara for fifth all-time behind only Sonoma State (11), Colorado State (12), Michigan (12), and Brigham Young (14). 2010 marks only the second time in program history that SFU has received an at-large bid to compete in the national tournament. The Clan have earned automatic bids for their other eight appearances by winning a record eight PNCLL Conference Championships.

Fraser rallied to earn an at-large bid to the 2010 tournament by winning six of their final seven regular season games before defeating Oregon State (12-5) in the PNCLL Conference Semi-finals and falling short to Oregon (14-8) in the PNCLL Conference Championships. A 9-8 overtime win against Cal Poly jump-started the regular-season-ending run, which also included wins against Arizona State (14-7), Oregon State (21-7), Oregon (13-11), Montana (27-4) and Washington (18-9). This is the third consecutive year the Clan have earned an MCLA Tournament bid after reaching the quarterfinals the past two seasons. The loss to Oregon in the 2010 PNCLL Conference Championships snapped a 26-game conference winning streak for SFU dating back to the start of the 2008 season.

The Clan feature a balanced offense that counts five players averaging over 2 points-per-game. Senior Ben Towner (Port Coquitlam, BC / Terry Fox Secondary) leads the way with team-highs of 47 goals and 70 points; while Adam Foss (Cochrane, AB / Cochrane High School) has a team high of 29 assists and sits second behind Towner with 28 goals and 57 points on the year. Russel Thomas - 25g, 10a (Nanose Bay, BC / Ballenas Secondary) and Chris Tessarolo - 21g, 13a (New Westminster, BC / New Westminster Secondary) both have over 30 points on the season, while junior Ben Davies (New Westminster, BC / New Westminster Secondary), who missed the first nine games of the season due to injury, has scored 9 goals and 5 assists in the six games since his return. Colton Dow (Coquitlam, BC / Heritage Woods Secondary) is sixth in team scoring and leads all freshmen with 18 goals and 8 assists to his credit.

Defensively, the Clan are led by senior LSM Kevin Riley (Coquitlam, BC / Gleneagle Secondary) and close defenders Nathan Clare (Ladner, BC / Vancouver College), Luke Genereux (Port Coquitlam, BC / Terry Fox Secondary) and Dan Patterson (Erin, ON / Erin District High School). Goaltenders Mike Ripley (Saskatoon, SK / E.D. Feehan High School) and Dean Stewart (Duncan, BC / Claremont Secondary) have split the majority of time in net for SFU, both averaging save percentages of over .500.

Face-off specialist Ryan Hodge (San Antonio, TX / Texas Military Institute) has also had an outstanding year for the Clan going 150 for 235 on draws (64%) and helping guide Fraser to a 7-3 record to end the year, since assuming the starting role five games into the 2010 season.

Florida State is making their 6th appearance in the MCLA Tournament. The Seminoles fashion a 3-5 (.375) all-time record in the tournament, most recently reaching the national quarterfinals in 2009.

The Seminoles are led by a high-powered offense with five players having totaled 30 or more points for Florida State and Jon Yates (Rockville, MD / Thomas Wootton) 37 points (29g, 8a) leading the way. Josh Eustice -23g, 12a (Buffalo, NY / Orchard Park), Tom Byrne - 20g, 16a (Bellmore, NY / Mepham), Robert Lee - 20g, 16a (Great Falls, VA / Langley) and Tyler Richey - 33g, 2a (Vero Beach, FL / St. Edward's) help fuel an offense that is averaging 13.8 goals per game.

Senior goalie John Goodrich (Baltimore, MD / St. Paul's) leads the way defensively for Florida State. He currently sports a 5.90 goals against average and a .677 save percentage.

This will be only the third meeting all-time between Simon Fraser and Florida State with the teams tied 1-1 in the series. The teams first met in the consolation round of the 2004 tournament with the Seminoles winning 17-9. The teams last met in the opening round of the 2008 MCLA National Championships, when the Clan prevailed 20-10.

Simon Fraser and Florida State had three common opponents this season; Cal Poly, Chapman and Michigan State. Both teams lost to Chapman and posted one-goal victories over Cal Poly, while the Clan fell to Michigan State (12-9) the game after the Spartans were defeated by the Seminoles (8-5).

## **2010 MCLA Tournament Schedule**

### **First Round – Tuesday, May 11 at DSGP**

University of Michigan (1) vs. Texas State University (16), 4:00pm MST

Colorado State University (2) vs. Boston College (15), 4:00pm MST

Arizona State University (3) vs. Cal Poly SLO (14), 4:00pm MST

Chapman University (4) vs. University of Illinois (13), 4:00pm

University of Minnesota-Duluth (5) vs. University of Florida (12), 7:00pm MST

University of Oregon (6) vs. University of Colorado (11), 7:00pm MST

**FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY (7) vs. SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY (10), 7:00pm MST**

Brigham Young University (8) vs. Michigan State University (9), 7:00pm MST

### **Quarterfinals - Wednesday, May 12 at DSGP**

Michigan/Texas State winner vs. Brigham Young/Michigan State winner, 7:00pm MST

Colorado State/Boston College winner vs. Florida State/Simon Fraser winner, 7:00pm MST

Arizona State/Cal Poly winner vs. Oregon/Colorado winner, 4:00pm MST

Chapman/Illinois winner vs. Minn-Duluth/Florida winner, 4:00pm

### **Semifinals - Friday, May 14 at Dick's Sporting Good's Park Stadium**

### **Finals – Saturday, May 15 at Dick's Sporting Good's Park Stadium**

The first round and quarterfinal games of the MCLA National Championships will be played on the external fields at Dick's Sporting Goods Park on May 11 and 12. The tournament then moves inside the stadium for the semifinals and finals on May 14 and 15. For brackets and game schedules, visit the MCLA Web site:  
[http://mcla.us/national\\_tournament/2010\\_denver/](http://mcla.us/national_tournament/2010_denver/)

Tickets for the championship games can be purchased in person at the Dick's Sporting Goods Park Box Office, at any Colorado Dick's Sporting Goods location, by calling TicketHorse at 1-866-461-6556 or by visiting TicketHorse online.

### **About Simon Fraser Men's Lacrosse**

Established in 1996, Simon Fraser University men's lacrosse is in its 15th season and competes in the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association (MCLA). The team has captured eight Conference Titles (1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2008 and 2009) and has earned ten 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](http://www.sfulacrosse.com) or follow the Clan on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/fraserlacrosse>.

**About the MCLA (Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association)**

The Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association (MCLA), the national organization of men's collegiate club teams, was formed in 2006 to provide more direct attention to collegiate club lacrosse and a quality college lacrosse experience where varsity lacrosse does not yet exist. The MCLA consists of over 200 teams from across the United States, separated into two divisions and 10 conferences.

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