



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

PRESS RELEASE

www.sfulacrosse.com

No. 16 Simon Fraser Midseason Report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

BURNABY, BC (April 1, 2011) – In their seventh season under Co-Head Coaches Jeff Cathrea and Brent Hoskins, the 2010 MCLA Semi-Finalist, Simon Fraser University men's lacrosse team has past the mid-point of their 15-game regular season schedule posting an overall record of 4-5. Currently ranked No. 16 in the MCLA, all five of the Clan's losses have been to opponents ranked in the Top 11. With six games still remaining over the month of April, including four versus ranked opponents, a young SFU squad that has featured upwards of seven freshmen in their starting line-up this season, will look to continue to build on valuable experience to make another run at the PNCLL Conference Championship and earn the program's eleventh bid to the MCLA National Championships this May.

DOWN THE LINE-UP

With arguably the youngest line-up in the MCLA, Simon Fraser's 2011 roster features only four seniors with eight freshmen, six sophomores and one junior. Through nine games, the Clan's starting line-up has consisted mainly of six freshmen, two sophomores and two seniors with all nineteen players, including both goaltenders, registering minutes.

IN THE POLLS

Presented by CollegeLAX.us, Simon Fraser started the 2011 season ranked No. 10 in The Prodigy MCLA Division I Top 25 Poll, after opening the season with a home-win over regional PNCLL Division II opponent Western Washington (15-5). Consecutive road losses to current No. 11 Utah (12-11 OT) and No. 4 Brigham Young (16-8) would see the Clan drop to No. 17. Fraser would then fall two more spots to No. 19 after a neutral site loss to No. 8 Michigan State (17-14) and a win at home over Boise State (16-7). In a rematch of the 2010 MCLA Quarterfinals, a two goal loss at home to No. 2 Colorado State (13-11) would see the Clan climb back up to No. 16 where they have stayed over the past two weeks with a neutral site loss to No. 7 Colorado (18-14) and convincing wins over Idaho (31-8) and PNCLL Division II opponent Gonzaga (32-5).

Last season Simon Fraser started the year at No. 4 before dropping to as low as No. 23 in the polls with a 2-6 start. A 6-1 tear to end the season, saw the Clan earn an at-large bid to the MCLA National Championships where, as the No. 10 seed, they would upset No. 7 Florida State (9-6) in the opening round and No. 2 Colorado State (12-11 OT) in the Quarterfinals, before falling to No. 3 Arizona State (19-9) in the MCLA Semi-Finals, a game that was played live on Fox College Sports from inside Dick Sporting Goods Park Stadium in Denver, Colorado.

VERSUS OPPONENTS

The Clan have outscored their opponents 152-101 in 2011. Despite being outscored 76-58 versus ranked opponents, SFU is currently 8-10-3 over 21 quarters versus the five ranked teams that they have faced, all of which are currently in the MCLA's Top 11. Once again playing one of the MCLA's toughest schedules with 9 of 15 opponents ranked in the Top 20, the nine teams that Simon Fraser has faced so far this season have combined to post a 41-32 (.562) record, with the five teams that the Clan have lost to currently sitting at 32-10 (.762) over the first two months of action.

ON THE RECORD

Despite their youth, several fresh faces have had an immediate impact for the Clan, already setting new standards for multiple team records. Freshman attack Calvin Craig (Coquitlam, BC / Gleneagle Secondary) set a new school record for points in a game with 15 points on 12 goals and 3 assists versus Idaho on March 26, breaking the previous mark of 13 points shared by Ricky Clark SFU '04 (9g, 4a March 2, 2002 vs. Washington State) and Peter Morgan SFU '01 (6g, 7a April 1, 2000 vs. Oregon State). Craig's 12 goals also set a new mark for most goals in a game surpassing the previous record of 11 goals held by Mike Christians SFU '07 (April 24, 2004 vs. Western Washington).

Sophomore attack Colton Dow (Coquitlam, BC / Heritage Woods Secondary) who had 13 points versus Idaho with 5 goals and 8 assists, set a new standard for assists (8) topping the previous record of 7 held by Aaron Lochhead SFU '00 who

recorded 7 assists twice in 2000 (February 12 vs. Washington and April 2 vs. Oregon) and Peter Morgan who also registered seven helpers that same season (April 1 vs. Oregon State).

Freshman face-off specialist Max Weselowski (Maple Ridge, BC / Meadowridge School) set a new school record for both face-off wins in a game (29) and best face-off percentage in a game (76%) going 29 of 38 versus Gonzaga to pass the previous marks set by Ryan Hodge of 71% on 24 wins in 34 attempts (April 16, 2010 vs. Montana). The Clan also established new school highs for shots in a quarter (24), shots in a game (78), goals in a quarter (13) and goals in a half (20) against the Bulldogs.

Simon Fraser Co-Head Coaches Jeff Cathrea and Brent Hoskins, who hold the school record for wins in a career, also passed a new career milestone, registering their 70th career victory versus Idaho. Their all-time coaching record currently sits at 71-28 (.717). The Clan's game versus Oregon on April 8 will be Cathrea and Hoskins 100th career game behind the SFU bench.

Also of note, Clan senior captain Chris Tessarolo (New Westminster, BC / New Westminster Secondary) scored his 100th career goal versus Colorado on March 18. Tessarolo currently has 100 goals and 45 assists for 145 points in 57 games.

THE OFFENSE

With the graduation of All-Americans Adam Foss, Russel Thomas and Ben Towner who combined for an astonishing 689 points over the past four seasons, including 450 goals, many expected Simon Fraser to struggle offensively out of the gate in 2011. After averaging 11.67 goals per game (GPG) and 9.46 GPG versus ranked opponents in 2010, Fraser is actually up in both categories this season averaging an impressive 16.87 GPG and 11.60 GPG versus ranked opponents.

The Clan have been led by sophomore attack Colton Dow who was a PNCLL Honorable Mention in 2010 and currently sits at the top of the PNCLL with 51 points (29g, 22a). Dow is followed closely by freshman attack Calvin Craig who in 8 games leads the PNCLL with 37 goals and sits second with 45 points. Dow (5.67) and Craig (5.63) are currently third and fourth nationally in the MCLA in points per game (PPG), while Craig is also fourth in the MCLA in goals per game. Five of the Top 10 scorers in the PNCLL (PPG) belong to SFU with #5 freshman Cory Koesdibyo (Nanaimo, BC / Dover Bay Secondary) – 18g, 14a, 3.16 PPG, #8 sophomore Eric Ransom (Sherwood Park, AB / Bev Facey High School) – 15g, 10a, 3.13 PPG and #9 junior Rick Bezuidenhout (Campbell River, BC / Timberline Secondary) - 19g, 9a, 3.11 PPG rounding out the Clan's Top 5 scorers.

THE DEFENSE

Averaging 10.72 goals against (GA) and 12.69 GA versus ranked opponents last season, SFU is up in both categories to start the 2011 season with a goals against average of 11.22 and 15.2 versus ranked opponents. Holding down the Clan defense has been MCLA All-America Honorable Mentions Nathan Clare (Ladner, BC / Vancouver College) and Luke Genereux (Port Coquitlam, BC / Terry Fox Secondary), while freshman standout Riley Wanzer (Mukilteo, WA / Kamiak High School) has staked his claim as Fraser's starting LSM. Sophomore Sam Biagioni (Surrey, BC / Fraser Heights Secondary) and freshman Branden Bloom (Maple Ridge, BC / Samuel Robertson Technical) have split time as the third starter on close defense, while freshmen Tom Newton (Saskatoon, SK / Aden Bowman Collegiate) and Max Weselowski have carried the bulk of the workload at short stick defensive midfield.

Sophomore Kyle Middleton (Nanaimo, BC / Woodlands Secondary) has started 8 games for the Clan averaging 9.38 saves per game, while freshman Darren Zwack (Sherwood Park, AB / Archbishop Jordan High School) has looked impressive in limited action posting a .581 save percentage in just over 90:00 minutes between the pipes.

LOOKING FORWARD

Six regular-season games remain for Simon Fraser, including four versus ranked opponents in current No. 3 Arizona State (April 15), No. 6 Cal Poly (April 9), No. 15 Oregon (April 8) and No. 19 Arizona (April 17). SFU also still has two of three PNCLL North divisional games remaining on their schedule as the Clan travel to Washington (April 23) and host Montana (April 24 "Senior Day") in their final regular season home game.

Fraser will play a PNCLL Quarterfinal (TBA) match-up the weekend of April 30 / May 1. The PNCLL Final Four Conference Championships will then take place May 7 and 8 in Portland, Oregon, with the MCLA National Championship Tournament returning to Dick's Sporting Goods Park in Denver, Colorado May 17-21.

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

ABOUT SIMON FRASER MEN'S LACROSSE

Simon Fraser University men's lacrosse is entering its sixteenth season in 2011 and competes in the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association (MCLA). The Clan have captured a record eight PNCLL Conference Titles (1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2008 and 2009) and are tied for fifth all-time with ten MCLA National Championship tournament appearances, placing 2nd in 1999 and most recently playing in the 2010 MCLA Semi-Finals after reaching the Quarterfinals in 2008 and 2009. The Clan are proudly sponsored by Harrow Sports and Onyx Lacrosse / Riddell Helmets.

CONTACT: Co-Head Coach, Brent Hoskins +1 (604) 836-7748, bhoskins@alumni.sfu.ca

-30-