



2014 Presidents' Cup Report
Coquitlam, BC
Aug 24 – Aug 30/14

The 2014 Presidents' Cup is the CLA Senior B national championship, currently consisting of 6 provincial champions plus the host team.

This year, the Presidents' Cup was hosted by the BC provincial champion, TriCities Bandits. This allowed the BC 2nd place Nanaimo Timbermen to also compete in the championship. Alberta was represented by the St. Albert Sr. Miners, who were undefeated through the RMLL regular season, playoffs and ALA provincials. The other teams competing were Six Nations Rivermen (Ont), Kahnawake Mohawks (Que), Onondaga Redhawks (CanAm) and Akwasasne Outlawz (TNSLL).

The Poirier Sport & Leisure Complex was a wonderful venue. Floor visibility for players and spectators was bright. Parking was good and there were quality facility concessions. The graphic presentation of the tournament was exceptional and was evident throughout the season with a very good website and a Facebook page.

It appeared that the tournament committee had very few difficulties throughout the week. There was nothing outwardly apparent to indicate any problems. It was well managed with good gate control and evident security. However, from the CLA standpoint, there were some difficulties.

The coaches meeting kicked things off on Sunday, Aug 24 and was attended by all teams. There were 3 identified Commissioners present, representing the associations of Alberta, BC and Ont.. The Miners, having previously attended the Presidents' Cup, were well prepared with the required documentation of waivers and signed roster. Several teams were not, including Ontario. The Convenor displayed patience and announced that he would work with these teams to get everything in compliance.

The tournament started Monday morning with an uneventful game between the host and Que. The 2nd game resulted in an unprecedented forfeit to the Presidents' Cup by the Akwasane Outlawz to the St. Albert Miners. The Outlawz were unable to floor a team due to not enough players completing the CCES Online Education course under CLA policy 10.1.11.1. The Miners were given the win with a score of 1-0.

I have been informed by the CLA Convenor that the teams not in compliance at the Coaches' meeting and the issue of players not completing the CCES course have been referred to CLA discipline.

Prior to my arrival at the arena on Tuesday morning, I was informed by the Miners' game manager that there was an issue of non-certified assistant coaches with the Ont. Six Nations team. I immediately called the Convenor to question about the decision on this matter. I was told that Tri-Cities had volunteered the loan of a certified coach from their assistant coaching staff. I objected to this decision. The head coach for the Six Nations team was certified. The precedence for my objection, on behalf of Alberta, was from 2013 when the ALA representative team, Calgary Sr. Mountaineers, only had a head coach on their bench for the entire Presidents' Cup tournament. As well, the non-certified head coach for the 2009 Jr B Warriors (host) was not allowed on the bench at the Founders Cup.

A meeting was called by the CLA Convenor and all teams and I'm not clear on when this meeting was held. It must be noted that the Alberta and Ontario Commissioners were not informed of this meeting and were therefore not present. I am not sure whether the BC Commissioner was informed and present. When questioned as to why this representation was not informed, I was told by the CLA Convenor that he was instructed to only deal with the teams. I was not told who gave this direction. As a result, I am unable to report on the content of this meeting, other than I was informed that it was to address the non-compliance of many teams not having all players completing the CCES course and non-certified coaches. I also understand that the meeting was to decide if the tournament would proceed, allowing non-compliant players and non-certified coaches or if there were to be more forfeits or a cancellation of the tournament.

The St. Albert Miners are to be considered an experienced team to the Presidents' Cup with 2 prior appearances in recent years. And there was confidence from myself that the management staff, consisting of several CLA BOD members, would be on top of any concerns. The game manager did inform me about the issue of the non-certified coaches immediately. I'm unclear as to why he did not inform me of the meeting. In contrast, the Six Nations Rivermen were an inexperienced team at this tournament and their Commissioner was not informed of this meeting. There were issues discussed at the meeting which could have impact on future Presidents' Cups and national Sr B lacrosse. It is for reasons such as this meeting that Commissioners are present at the tournament. It seemed apparent that the decision reached at this meeting was to continue to play the tournament with some teams not in compliance to CLA policies.

Common practice is that Commissioners are to be informed of any meetings and attend any discipline hearings involving their representative team. MA's spend a great deal of funds to send the Commissioners and they attend to represent their division of lacrosse and their Association and League. To the best of my knowledge, the tournament proceeded without any further major issues. However, I don't feel that I can report to the membership properly on some important decisions that were made and could affect Senior B lacrosse at the national level.

The Miners represented Alberta lacrosse very well. They played solid lacrosse and were very competitive. By Wednesday they were undefeated, having wins against both BC teams, Akwasasne and Ontario. However, they dropped the final 2 round robin games to

finish in 3rd place with a 4-2 record. Both games were close matches. The cross over game against 2nd place Onondaga was also a close match. But the Miners couldn't hold it and dropped to the bronze medal matchup against Kahnawake. This game was fairly contentious and the Miners kept to their gameplan to capture the bronze medal. The gold medal game, also a close game, resulted in Onondaga winning over Six Nations.

Due to the forfeit, Miners' player, Nate Schmidt, was short one game of production in statistics. He had a good shot at winning the scoring title. The pts. Avg. between Nate and the final points winner was .25. The opponent for the missed game was Akwasasne, which finished winless and had the highest GA in the tournament. The forfeited game also affected the overall stats of the Miners team and other individual players.

The tournament play was good but did have several unbalanced games. TriCities did not have a good start out of the gate but soundly defeated Awkasasne 20-4. The Miners also handed a 20-6 loss to Nanaimo.

Penalties throughout the tournament saw many game misconducts and quite a few calls for illegal equipment. Some of these penalties may have had substantial impact on the game outcomes. However, I felt that the refereeing throughout the week was quite consistent and of good standard. There seemed to be a few more match penalties called than in recent years. Discipline for the match penalties were consistent with CLA standards. One gross misconduct was called and decided to be erroneous.

Shauna Sterparn
RMLL Senior B Commissioner