



2016 Minto Cup Report

The Calgary Mountaineers prevailed in a hard fought 5 game series with the Okotoks Raiders in the League Final. This would prepare them for the type of Minto Cup competition they would face in Langley, BC.

Their competition was surprise OLA Champion, Orangeville Northmen, BCJLL Champion, Delta Islanders, & host-perennial powerhouse Coquitlam Adanacs.

Before the games started, no one took the underdog Mountaineers seriously. But in the second game of the night, after the Adanacs won a thriller 8-7 over the Northmen, the Mounties took on the BC champion, Delta Islanders. The Mounties burst out of gate with 3-0 lead, only to see the Islanders storm back to tie it. Mounties get a late 1st period goal with 8 seconds left & never looked back. The Islanders tried, but failed to intimidate the Mounties, who just poured it on for an easy 13-5 victory & history was made. The game was marred by a line brawl started by the Islanders, after Mounties 13th goal with 1:40 left in the game. Mounties won every period & outshot the BC champs 54-45. They were led offensively by Laszlo Henning 1g, 5a, Sean Tyrrell 2g, 4a, & Jordan Prysko 2g, 3a. Full marks to Mounties Doug Gardner, who outdueled highly touted Kevin Orleman, in net.

Game 2 vs. the Adanacs was a different story, the Mounties had a good 1st period, tied 2-2, but could not solve Christian DelBianco, but once after that. While the Adanacs took advantage of their opportunities & won it going away 10-3. Shots were 52-34, Mounties had numerous great chances, but either hit the post or DelBianco. Austin Jerhoff scored 2 of the 3 Mountie goals.

Game 3 vs. the Northmen was a preview to the semi-final, as the Islanders were out of it by then. Both teams rested key players. The Mounties used a tough defense to keep most of the Northmen opportunities to the outside all nite & scored key goals at the right time to defeat the OLA champs 5-3 in a low scoring

affair. Sean Tyrrell & Austin Jerhoff led the way with 2g 1a each, while Lucas Claude 1g, 2a & Miles Moffatt 3a chipped in offensively. Brandon Humphreys was outstanding while being outshot 57-40. Second win of the Minto tournament was another 1st for Alberta. Heady stuff for these young men.

The semi-final was a historic game for Alberta lacrosse. The Mountaineers finished 2nd in the round robin & would face 3rd place Orangeville, winner to play the Adanacs, with a 1st place bye. This would be the 1st time an Alberta Jr.A team would play in the semi-finals of the Minto Cup. This would be a different game, as both teams played their best rosters. The Northmen opened the scoring, but Calgary answered with 2 of their own. The Ontario champs then scored 4 straight to finish period 1 with 5-2 lead. Lyndon Bunio opened the scoring in the 2nd with his 2nd of 3 on the nite & the teams traded goals up to 8:00 of the period when the Mounties trailing 7-4, scored an apparent goal. Everyone in the rink saw the goal, but unfortunately none of the 3 referees saw it go in, meanwhile Northmen scoop up the loose ball, drive down the floor & score to make it 8-4. This inspired the Ontario champs who poured it on, taking a 12-4 lead, until the Mounties scored 3 late goals, including a short handed beauty by Tony Tremblay, to make the score 12-7 Northmen. Shots were 50-35 Orangeville. Mounties Austin Jerhoff ends his junior career with a 2nd team all star selection. Sean Tyrrell led the Mounties in scoring with 14 points, 5g, 9a, the most by any Albertan in Minto Cup play.

The Adanacs would go on to defeat the Northmen in OT, in the 5th & deciding game in an exciting series to break the long standing Ontario reign & bring the Minto Cup back out west.

The Calgary Mountaineers played an outstanding tournament as a complete team, led by their veteran core & proved that we can compete on a national scale. The bar is now set for all future Alberta reps. I am extremely proud of the players, coaches, managers, volunteers & parents of the Calgary Jr.A Mountaineers. Congratulations on a job very well done & done with class.

Yours in Lacrosse,

RMLL JR.A.COMMISSIONER

Mike Fynn