



# VICTORIA INTERMEDIATE "A" SHAMROCKS

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Week #14

July 29, 2008



## Coach's Corner

It's here! We have been waiting for the Provincial Championships since last year when we came up on the short end of a 6 – 5 score in the 2007 Provincial Gold medal game.

The regular season records and results don't mean anything anymore. The 4 teams have been decided and we all start with 0 points. Friday to Sunday is a single round robin, with the top two going to the Gold game on Monday, and the other 2 fighting for Bronze.

New West, Coquitlam and the Babyrocks did what was expected and dismissed Burnaby, South Fraser and Nanaimo, respectively, in 2 straight games.

The other series between 4<sup>th</sup> place Delta and 5<sup>th</sup> place Port Coquitlam went 3 games with Poco winning 11 – 10 in double overtime. A great game by all accounts! We anticipated this would be a tough series and are not surprised by the outcome.

All 4 teams have a legitimate shot at winning it this year and it will come down to which team is able to put it all together over 4 days.

The 2008 Babyrocks have the talent and the ability to win Gold. However, at times we have been playing some uninspired, and just good enough lacrosse, of late. That will not be good enough this weekend if we hope to win the Championship.

We have been waiting all year for this Provincial Tournament. Both the Players and the Coaches will need to bring their 'A' game and compete with intensity, composure and passion. Wish us luck!

Yours in lacrosse,

Scott Browning

Co-Governor & Head Coach



Victoria Shamrocks Intermediate "A" Lacrosse 2008

## Rocks Advance

After defeating the Nanaimo Timbermen in 2 straight games, the Babyrocks are off to the BC Intermediate 'A'

Provincial Championships, August 1 to 4, in New Westminster. Facing off against Victoria in the quest for gold will be Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and, the reigning Provincial Champions, New Westminster.

In the first game the Shamrocks controlled the play and jumped to a 6-2 lead after the first period. Casey Jackson led all scorers with two goals, while Steve Axford, Kyle Hofer, Brandon McLean, and Kyle Dexter added singles. Nanaimo fought back in the second period and the teams played even with each team adding 3 goals. McLean, Jackson and Steve Higgs found the twine for the Shamrocks. The score after two periods was 9-5 in favour of the Babyrocks. In the third period, Victoria once again showed their supremacy winning the period 5-2. Blair Pinnock scored two of the Shamrock goals, Jackson added his 4<sup>th</sup> goal of the game, Higgs his 2<sup>nd</sup> and Mitch McLaren had a single.

The next day it was the Babyrocks turn to climb the Malahat for a noon game in Nanaimo. Unlike game 1, the score throughout the game was much closer even though Nanaimo was widely out shot. In fact, a Shamrock win was not a certainty until late in the 3<sup>rd</sup> period. The first period ended in a 3-3 draw with Shamrock goals coming from Jackson, McLean and Shea Wakefield. In the second period, Victoria scored first on a goal by Karsen Leung but Nanaimo responded with two quick goals to claim a 5-4 lead. Victoria changed goalies at this point and the team responded by scoring 4 straight goals: 1 from the stick of Jordan Wong and 3 straight by Jackson. Nanaimo added a goal late in the period and the score at the end of 2 periods had Victoria in front 8-6. In the third period, Nanaimo scored in the first minute to get within 1 goal, the Rocks responded a minute later on a goal by Dexter followed by goals from Higgs and Mitch Bancroft within 20 seconds of each other to put the Babyrocks in front 11-7, not to be outdone, Nanaimo buried 3 of their own within one minute and six seconds and once again it was a one goal game! The goaltenders, Scott Bannister for Victoria and Matt Hiebert for Nanaimo, stood on their heads to turn back all shooters for the next 11 minutes until McLaren scored on the powerplay with 3:17 left to play. Dexter added his 2<sup>nd</sup> goal of the period with 57 seconds left to play and the Babyrocks had the 13-10 win.

The Shamrocks now head to the Provincial Championships looking to capture Gold after coming so close in last year's Gold Medal game. You can follow the results on the BC Championships tournament website using the following link. <http://members.shaw.ca/bcill/>

## Meet the Players



### Casey Jackson

*This is your second year with the Intermediate Shamrocks team, what was the most memorable experience from year one with the Baby Rocks?*

The most memorable experience was the game versus Coquitlam in the semis at the Provincials and how intense that game was. It really opened my eyes to how fast paced a lacrosse game can get.

*What do you hope to achieve with the Baby Rocks this season?*

I hope to achieve a gold medal and a season where I can learn and become a smarter player.

*Where did you play your minor lacrosse and who were your biggest influences?*

I played minor lacrosse for the Saanich Tigers with most of the other guys on the team. My biggest influences are my parents and, most of all, Dave Bremner because he taught me the game and showed us everything we needed to know. All the guys who had him as a coach, when we were younger, would never be the players we are now without him.

*Tell us about your past accomplishments in the sport.*

Well, we came second in the Provincials last year and the year before I was part of the Island team that took home a gold medal in the BC summer games.

*As a minor lacrosse player, was there one particular player you looked up to who you wanted to emulate and why?*

I would watch the older players who were in junior and senior and tried to pick up little tricks from everyone and put them into my game, which I think has really helped.

*Do you have future plans/goals that you hope to pursue in lacrosse?*

Yes, I would like to win a Minto Cup in Junior and then go as far as I can in the sport. Hopefully, that would be the NLL one day.

*What about school and/or career goals?*

At the moment, I am not quite sure yet.

*If you were a script writer, what would the perfect ending to a lacrosse movie be?*

It would be winning the championship in a blowout game!

*Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us today.*

Thanks, it was a pleasure.

## Meet the Players



### Steve Higgs

*This is your second year with the Intermediate Shamrocks team, what was the most memorable experience from year one with the Baby Rocks?*

Playing in the Provincial Tournament was my most memorable experience from last year.

*What do you hope to achieve with the Baby Rocks this season?*

To win a gold medal at the Provincials.

*Where did you play your minor lacrosse and who were your biggest influences?*

I played my minor lacrosse for the Peninsula Warriors. Many players and coaches have had an influence on my development as a player over the years.

*Tell us about your past accomplishments in the sport.*

In 2006, my team won a gold medal at the B.C. summer games and recently I took home a silver medal at the U-19 World Field Lacrosse Championships.

*As a minor lacrosse player, was there one particular player you looked up to who you wanted to emulate and why?*

I looked up to many of the Senior Shamrock players that I have seen play over the years.

*Do you have future plans/goals that you hope to pursue in lacrosse?*

I hope to play NCAA field lacrosse and have a successful season in Jr. A next season.

*What about school and/or career goals?*

I would like to go to school in the States to pursue an education and to play lacrosse.

*If you were a script writer, what would the perfect ending to a lacrosse movie be?*

The Shamrocks winning the BC Intermediate gold medal this weekend!

*Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us today.*

No problem, it was fun doing this.

## Alumni Corner

### Trevor Scott

*Tell us about your time with the Intermediate Shamrocks team: Years, Players, Coaches, Accomplishments, etc?*

I played with the Babyrocks in the 2003-2004 seasons. I was lucky enough to play with a number of current Shamrocks including Rhys Duch, Kyle and Curt Morwick, Kegan Young, Luke Hinton and Aaron Bold. We had a very strong team for both seasons and were coached by Tyson Leies. We won a silver medal in 2003 and gold in 2004.

*What was the most memorable experience that you had with the Baby Rocks?*

I would have to say that, without a doubt, it would be winning the provincial championships in Chilliwack during the '04 season. One of the highlights of my lacrosse career to date.

*Which team or teams are you currently playing with in the Summer and Winter?*

Right now, I'm in my rookie season with the Senior Shamrocks after being drafted to them in the '08 WLA draft. Last fall, in the NLL entry draft, I was selected by the San Jose Stealth but did not play last winter. Currently, I am a free agent for the 2009 NLL season.

*Do you feel your years with the Intermediate Shamrocks helped you advance your lacrosse career? Why?*

Definitely, playing for the Intermediate Rocks meant the beginning of our weekend ferry trips to Vancouver. These trips were an excellent chance for us as players to bond more closely and become a more tight-knit group. This atmosphere carried over to our time spent with the Junior Rocks.

*What advice do you have for younger lacrosse players hoping to make it to either the WLA or NLL?*

It's all about hard work. It is important to remember that practice is for learning the game. If you put the time in at the box/gym, you'll always have an opportunity to get better.

*Is there one lacrosse accomplishment that stands out from all the others? Why?*

Winning the gold medal with the Intermediate Shamrocks really sticks out as one of my most memorable accomplishments. In recent times, being drafted to the NLL is a reminder that my hard work to date is beginning to pay off, although there is still a long road ahead.

*What are your future goals in the sport?*

Obviously, winning the Mann Cup with the Victoria Shamrocks is the dream of any young lacrosse player growing up in Victoria; to be a part of one would be a great honor. Besides that, of course, is to become a well accomplished player in the NLL.

*What are you doing these days outside of lacrosse?*

Currently, I am an electrical apprentice and when I'm not at work or at the rink, you'll find me out hiking, surfing and hanging out with friends.

*Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us.*

All the best with the rest of your season guys. GO ROCKS!!!!



**BC Intermediate Championships**

**August 1, 2, 3 and 4**

**Queen's Park Arena, New Westminster, BC**

**To see game articles from the Provincial Championships please visit [www.babyrocks.net](http://www.babyrocks.net) OR visit**

**the Championships site at <http://members.shaw.ca/bcill/>**