

## Special teams lead Pioneers to league opening win in Victoria

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The inaugural Ladner Pioneers senior B lacrosse team will be honoured Thursday night during the team's season opener as part of the club's 35th anniversary celebration.

Ladner Pioneers relied on a highly productive penalty kill unit to open their 35th season in the West Coast Senior Lacrosse Association with an 11-9 road win over the Victoria Wolves on Sunday in the provincial capital.

The Pioneers produced four shorthanded goals and added two more on the power play to take care of the WCSLA's newest entry.

The Clare brothers did much of the offensive damage for Ladner with Nathan notching six points, including a pair of goals. Sam also scored twice and finished with four points. Mike Berekoff added a hat trick and two assists, while Mike Avery had two goals and as many helpers. Ryan Keith also scored twice.

"Anytime you can come away from the Island with two points it's a good result," said Pioneers head

coach Ross Frehlick. "They tried running us out of the building in the first period but we responded with a 6-2 lead. Other than taking too many minors (14) we were pretty happy."

The Pioneers got off to a late start this season with a number of players participating in a tournament in the Czech Republic. Ladner will play its home opener Thursday when the North Shore Indians visit at 8 p.m.

Veteran Rob Cook, back for one final season, got the win in net, making 36 saves. The team was hoping he would share the crease load with Matt Morehouse but he has asked to be traded to Langley. Frehlick says there is no pending deal in the works.

"Right now we need another goalie," added Frehlick. "If Langley calls I would listen but I'm not doing anything."