
Langley visits Pioneers Thursday in key mid-season battle

Teams battling for second place in West Coast Senior Lacrosse Association

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JUNE 6, 2018 03:00 PM



The Ladner Pioneer's annual Mark's Game fundraiser brought plenty of former hometown lacrosse stars back to the Ladner Leisure Centre floor last Saturday including (left to right) Andrew McBride, Logan Schuss and Tim Winter for the friendly encounter. McBride now resides in Calgary after a long career in the NLL with the Roughnecks. This year's game and social raised funds for former Pioneer player and coach Thomas Haydon who is battling cancer. Photograph By ALISON PARKER-SZABO

The Ladner Pioneers will attempt to tighten their grip on second place in the West Coast Senior Lacrosse Association tomorrow night when the Langley Warriors come to town for a key mid-season meeting.

The defending champions (5-2-0) currently have a three point cushion on the fourth place Warriors after dropping a 9-8 decision to the Victoria Wolves on Sunday in in the provincial capital. The gap also shrunk when the league decided to throw out the result of game between the two teams back in May.

Langley prevailed 13-10 but the two points were rewarded to Ladner due to the Warriors using a player who was on the WLA holdout list. However, the Warriors filed a protest which has led to the league not counting the game towards the standings. No make-up game will be scheduled either.

The rivals meet in Ladner then for the final time this season on June 19. Also in the mix for second place are the Coquitlam Adanacs sitting at 4-1-0-1 with two games in hand on Ladner.

"We still have two games left with them so we do control our own destiny," said head coach Ross Frehlick who watched his squad hand the Adanacs their only loss (17-8) back on May 24.

The three-team race for two positions is all about avoiding fourth place and a potential semi-final date with the unbeaten (7-0-0) Nanaimo Timbermen who are hosting this year's President's Cup Canadian Championships in August. Get to the WCLA finals and a berth to nationals is secured.

Frehlick isn't overly concerned about the loss in Victoria. It came a day after the entire team was involved in Mark's Game — an annual fundraiser and social. This year's event was dedicated to former Pioneer player and assistant coach Thomas Haydon who is battling cancer.

Game time Thursday is 8 p.m. at the Ladner Leisure Centre.