

THE TRI-CITY NEWS

Early Attack lifts Lakers past Adanacs

By Larry Pruner – Tri-City News - June 18, 2008

A slow start to the season didn't stop the Burnaby Lakers from getting a fast start Saturday against the Coquitlam Adanacs.

The Lakers leapt to a 3-0 lead after the first period and scooted past the Adanacs 9-6 in a Western Lacrosse Association contest at the Sports Centre.

The loss dropped the second-place Adanacs to 6-2, while the Lakers improved to 3-4-1 after losing their first four games of the campaign.

"They finally got everyone back [from the National Lacrosse League]," Adanacs general manager Les Wingrove said of the Lakers, whom he expected at the beginning of the season to contend for top spot this year. "Certainly, they're a lot better than their record had been. They're in pretty decent shape now."

Wingrove cited his team's poor start for the loss, which shoved Coquitlam four points back of the 8-0 New Westminster Salmonbellies.

"The difference in the game was the first period," Wingrove said. "We played them pretty even after that. We got off to a poor start and never really recovered."

Trent Smalley's goal at 8:38 of the second period narrowed the Lakers' lead to 4-3 but that was as close as Coquitlam could come. Owen McNab's goal midway through the third boosted the Burnaby margin to 9-4 before the A's Andy Secore bagged back-to-back powerplay goals 1:18 apart to close out the scoring.

The A's out-shot the Lakers 51-44, including peppering 26 in the second period at ex-PoCo Jr. 'A' Saints stopped Andrew Leyshon, but "shot poorly," said Wingrove, who's still semi-satisfied with his team's start to the season.

"I would have taken [6-2 after eight games] at the start of the season but, having said that, we could have maybe been even better," he said.

Secore led the Adanacs with three points on two goals and one assist on a team-high 12 shots, while Gary Bining also tallied twice in a losing cause. Smalley and rookie Curtis Ptolemy were the only other Adanacs able to beat Leyshon.



Coquitlam Adanacs captain Bruce Murray chases down the Burnaby Lakers' Calvin Craig in Western Lacrosse Association action Saturday night at the Sports Centre.

Dan Brodie

Chris Levis and Brandon Atherton split the A's netminding chores and combined for 34 saves. Cam

Sedgwick was the pair's biggest problem, as he pumped in three goals and added an assist. Former Adanac Kevin Hanson added two markers for the Lakers.

The A's visit New West tomorrow (Thursday) before returning home to host the Maple Ridge Burrards on Saturday at the Sports Centre, 7:45 p.m.