

Canadian's in the NCAA – 2010

Believe it or not its lacrosse season again! For fans of NCAA lacrosse and/or those who enjoy keeping up with the performance of Canadian's playing south of the border, the season is off to a terrific start with three games already in the bag and some notable performances from guys with maple leaf tattoos on their calves. However, before we get into the specifics of this weekend's games, let's briefly look at this year's contingent of Canadians (which includes two Iroquois players) and players of interest as we head into the season.

Canadian contingent up 40% in 2010!

For those who followed this blog last year, you will recall that there were 153 Canadian's playing in the NCAA in 2009 at the Division I, II and III levels. This number included 75 Canadians playing on Division I teams. Looking into 2010, with rosters yet to be finalized it is difficult to say exactly how large the Canadian contingent will be but at Division I the numbers appear to be up sharply. According to the most recent look at team websites the number of Canadians playing Division I in 2010 will jump to 105 versus 75 in 2009. That's a 40% jump in one year! The 2010 class includes 43 freshmen and suggests that it won't be long before the number of Canadians playing in the NCAA Division I will soon top 150. We will report on the evolution of Division II and Division III in subsequent weeks.

Players to watch in 2010 – its starts with Cody Jamieson

Each season brings a new crop of players who emerge as the dominant players of their year and here I get to speculate about a few players who I expect will turn some heads in 2010. So let's starts with Cody Jamieson (Six Nations). While "Cody" is not particularly well known in the NCAA given that he has only played 6 games in the NCAA Division I, in Canada he is already recognized as a prodigy. To put some meat behind this statement, one should note that Jamieson was a rookie in Canada's senior league this past summer, a league that features most of the top Canadian box players from the NLL. As a rookie, Cody not only won the rookie of the year award but also won the scoring championship and the MVP award. The last Canadian rookie to do something like that was a kid named Gretzky (in hockey) who interestingly grew up about 20 miles from where Cody grew up – there must be something in the water in that part of Canada. The bottom-line is that if Cody is healthy, he is going to be phenomenal for Syracuse and lead an offensive unit that was already strong without him – all time single season scoring records should fall.

Other players of interest – McBride, Crowley, Campbell, Belton, Card, Keogh, and Neufeld

The recent Team Canada tryouts highlighted that a contingent of Canadian's playing on Long Island "have game" and will make life miserable for anyone who takes the Stony Brook Seawolves lightly this year. This group is led by Jordan McBride (New Westminster) and also includes Kevin Crowley (New Westminster), Robbie Campbell (Delta) and Kyle Belton (Langley). And while on the topic of Long Island, let's not forget about Hofstra's Jay Card (Caledon) – this kid has "touch" around the net and the mindset of a fighter pilot which suggests that the 35 goals he scored last year will be exceeded in 2010. Another player worth watching is Syracuse's Stephen Keogh (Toronto Beaches). Teammate Cody Jamieson will prove to be a huge distraction that will require him to be doubled and this should give Keogh a lot of room to maneuver – expect another big year from Keogh. Bryan Neufeld (Virgil) is another player who could have an intriguing story-line in 2010. Recall that Neufeld scored 38 goals for Siena as a rookie but will not sneak up on anyone this year. Other sophomores worth watching include Hartford's Aidan Genik (Toronto Beaches) and Carter Bender (Caledon) , Denver's Mark Matthews (Oshawa), and Kyle Bergman (Toronto) out of Drexel.

Rookie Watch – Palmer, Cockerton, Ward, Church, Brownell, Flint and Digby

The rookie watch is always intriguing because it is difficult at times to tell whose box game will translate well to the US field game and for those players joining stronger teams, whether or not they will crack the starting line-up. Thus, rookies playing fort start-up programs like Jacksonville and Detroit-Mercy are likely to see more playing time than a freshman trying to crack the roster of a Syracuse or John's Hopkins. That said, here's a few interesting names to watch out for. At the top of the list are Virginia freshman Matt Cockerton (Oshawa) and Johns Hopkins freshman Zach Palmer (Oshawa). Both of these players were top A list players in Canada and everyone back home will be watching to see how these two kids make out in their freshman year. At the other end of the field is an intriguing player out of Orangeville by the name of Dillon Ward. US schools don't typically come to Canada looking for goalies but Ward should be seen a "poster child" for the evolution of the Canadian game. Ward is a product of the Orangeville minor lacrosse system and Brodie Merrill's Hill Academy and some consider Ward to be the best field lacrosse goalie Canada has produced in a decade. Four other rookies that we expect will have immediate impact on their respective teams are Drexel's Robert Church (Coquitlam), Robert Morris' Kevin Brownell (Burlington), Denver's Cam Flint (Georgetown) and Tyler Digby (New Westminster) who also plays for Robert Morris. All four of these players are high impact scorers in Canadian box leagues and should have no problem finding the net in the NCAA.

Three games this past weekend – Dickson and Matthews off to a great start!

While most NCAA Division I teams will not start play for another a week or two, three games were played this past weekend worth noting. This past Friday saw Delaware beat St Joe's 15 to 5 with Curtis Dickson (Port Coquitlam) leading the way for the Blue Hens with five goals and an assist. Saturday saw Detroit Mercy open at home against Bellarmine with Joel Matthews (St Catherines) starting the season with 4 goals in a losing effort for Detroit. On the other side of center, Chase Williams (Vancouver) had two goals and an assist for Bellarmine and Derek Hopcroft (Toronto) added a pair. Finally, Jacksonville played their first game ever on Saturday losing to UNC. Ryan Serville (Toronto) led the Jacksonville scoring effort with two goals and an assist.

Games upcoming – Not much happening close to the border for a while

Most northern teams in the NCAA wisely schedule their games down south this time of year. For Canadians hungry to see an NCAA Division I game in person, key upcoming match ups include Villanova at Ohio State (this weekend), Cornell at Hobart (27 Feb) Dartmouth at Colgate (27 Feb) and Army at Syracuse (28 Feb). Simon Fraser's next home game is not until March 20th but it should be a good one as the opponent is BYU.

Canadian Lacrosse and the Toronto Rock

While this blog focuses primarily on Canadian's playing field lacrosse in the NCAA, I am going to take the liberty of speaking about the Toronto Rock (NLL) team. As many lacrosse fans may know, the Toronto Rock were sold this past summer to an investor (James Dawick) who has a passion and intelligence for the game of lacrosse that has been missing in Toronto since the passing of Les Bartley. Over the past six months, Dawick in concert with coaches Troy Cordingley and Terry Sanderson have gone about reconstructing the Toronto Rock with results that have been nothing short of spectacular. The Rock are now 4-1 and playing a style of lacrosse that is exciting to the casual fan and considered extremely astute to "serious" lacrosse types who think they know something about how the game is suppose to be played. Recent NCAA graduates Garrett Billings and Stephan LeBlanc are putting up huge offensive numbers while Rock stalwarts Colin Doyle, Bob Watson, Blaine Manning and Phil Sanderson are playing

their best lacrosse in recent memory. Dawick and Company have clearly delivered and now it's time for the lacrosse community in the greater Toronto area to get out and support this team. The Toronto Rock's next home game is this Friday at 7:30PM against Brodie Merrill's Edmonton Rush. Hope to see you there!

Final Comments

Its lacrosse season and I am therefore a happy camper. To the young men who are currently studying in the US and playing lacrosse in the NCAA, I offer you my best wishes both in the classroom and on the playing field. Let the games begin!

JP Donville/Toronto

Figure 1 - NCAA Div I - Canadian and Iroquois Players - 2010

Rank	School	Player	Hometown	Year	Position
1	Canisius	Adam Jones	Owen Sound	Junior	Midfield
2	Hofstra	Adrian Sorichetti	Whitby	Freshman	LSM
3	Hartford	Aidan Genik	Toronto	Sophomore	Attack
4	Vermont	AJ Masson	Newmarket	Freshman	Attack
5	Loyola	Alex Peaty	Victoria	Post-Grad	Goalie
6	Providence	Andrew Bromley	Surrey	Sophomore	Attack
7	Bryant	Austin Thomas	Mississauga	Junior	Midfield
8	Canisius	Brandon Bortignon	Coquitlam	Sophomore	Attack
9	Ohio State	Brandon McLean	Victoria	Sophomore	Midfield
10	Canisius	Brandon Niesink	Thorold	Freshman	Defence
11	Bellarmino	Brick Wipf	Saskatoon	Sophomore	Attack
12	Towson	Brock Armour	Victoria	Senior	Midfield
13	Ohio State	Brock Sorenson	Peterborough	Sophomore	Defence
14	Siena	Bryan Neufeld	Virgil/Niagra	Sophomore	Attack
15	Denver	Cam Flint	Georgetown	Freshman	Midfield
16	Jacksonville	Cameron Mann	Hamilton	Freshman	Midfield
17	Hartford	Carter Bender	Caledon	Sophomore	Attack
18	Bellarmino	Chad Mitchell	Calgary	Freshman	Attack
19	Bellarmino	Chase Williams	Vancouver	Senior	Midfield
20	Jacksonville	Clark De Geer	Caledon	Sophomore	Midfield
21	Syracuse	Cody Jamieson	Six Nations	Senior	Attack
22	Bellarmino	Colton Clark	Nanaimo	Sophomore	Midfield
23	Robert Morris	Corbyn Tao-Brambleby	Coquitlam	Junior	Attack
24	Delaware	Curtis Dickson	Port Coquitlam	Senior	Attack
25	Canisius	Dan Coates	St Catherines	Senior	Midfield
26	Albany	Dave Brock	Burlington	Senior	Attack
27	Robert Morris	Dave Morton	Orangeville	Sophomore	Attack
28	Bellarmino	Derek Hopcroft	Toronto	Senior	Midfield
29	Yale	Deron Dempster	Orangeville	Freshman	Attack
30	Bellarmino	Dillon Ward	Orangeville	Freshman	Goalie
31	Canisius	DJ Giacobbo	Athabasca	Freshman	Midfield
32	Sacred Heart	Eric Crepinsek	Oakville	Freshman	Midfield

33	Hobart	Ethan O'Connor	Milton	Freshman	Defence
34	Hobart	Evan Kirk	Orangeville	Junior	Goalie
35	Virginia	Garett Ince	Oakville	Junior	Midfield
36	Quinnipiac	Garett Kerr	Caledon	Senior	Midfield
37	Drexel	Garett McIntosh	Coquitlam	Freshman	Midfield
38	Fairfield	Graham Bergsma	St Catharines	Senior	Midfield
39	Stony Brook	Greg Miceli	King City	Sophomore	Defence
40	Canisius	Hugh Weir	Saskatoon	Freshman	Midfield
41	Hofstra	Jaime Lincoln	St. Catharines	Junior	Attack
42	Robert Morris	Jake Hayes	Calgary	Freshman	Attack
43	Cornell	Jake Thompson	Orangeville	Freshman	Attack
44	Bellarmine	Jarrett Davis	Port Moody	Senior	Midfield
45	Cornell	Jason Noble	Orangeville	Freshman	Defence
46	Hofstra	Jay Card	Caledon	Junior	Attack
47	Harvard	Jesse Fehr	Calgary	Senior	Attack
48	Cornell	Jesse Gamble	Rockwood	Junior	Attack
49	Stony Brook	JJ Laforet	Georgetown	Freshman	Midfield
50	Detroit	Joel Matthews	St Catharines	Freshman	Midfield
51	Cornell	Jonathan Thomson	Orangeville	Junior	Midfield
52	Detroit	Jordan Houtby	St Catharines	Freshman	LSM
53	Stony Brook	Jordan McBride	New Westminster	Junior	Attack
54	Robert Morris	Jordan Sealock	Airdrie	Senior	Midfield
55	Bellarmine	Jordan Wong	Victoria	Sophomore	Attack
56	Dartmouth	Josh Gillam	Peterborough	Senior	Attack
57	Bellarmine	Karsen Leung	Victoria	Sophomore	Midfield
58	Robert Morris	Kevin Brownell	Burlington	Freshman	Midfield
59	Stony Brook	Kevin Crowley	New Westminster	Junior	Midfield
60	Robert Morris	Kevin Neufeld	Coquitlam	Freshman	Defence
61	Robert Morris	Kiel Matisz	Stoney Creek	Sophomore	Midfield
62	Yale	Kirby Zdrill	Edmonton	Freshman	Attack
63	Stony Brook	Kyle Belton	Langley	Sophomore	Attack
64	Drexel	Kyle Bergman	Toronto	Sophomore	Attack
65	Robert Morris	Kyle Buchanan	Nepean	Sophomore	Midfield
66	Providence	Kyle Dexter	Victoria	Freshman	Midfield
67	Hartford	Kyle Goodchild	Toronto	Sophomore	Midfield
68	Bellarmine	Liam Kelly	Victoria	Sophomore	Attack
69	Bellarmine	Luke Acton	Saskatoon	Sophomore	Attack
70	Denver	Mark Matthews	Oshawa	Sophomore	Attack
71	Virginia	Matt Cockerton	Oshawa	Freshman	Attack
72	Albany	Matt Mackenzie	Spruce Grove	Freshman	Midfield
73	Hofstra	Michael Burke	Caledon East	Freshman	Midfield
74	Hartford	Michael Cudmore	Ashburn	Junior	Midfield
75	Cornell	Michael Howe	St Catharines	Senior	LSM
76	Colgate	Michael Thomas	Peterborough	Freshman	Attack
77	Ohio State	Mike Pires	Saanichton	Junior	Midfield
78	Albany	Mike Woods	Newmarket	Freshman	Midfield
79	Cornell	Mitch McMichael	Port Perry	Sophomore	Midfield
80	Bellarmine	Mitchell McLaren	Victoria	Freshman	Midfield
81	Robert Morris	Mitchell Wilde	Brooklin	Freshman	Midfield
82	Cornell	Myan Adams	Akwesasne	Freshman	Midfield

83	Bellarmino	Myles Jeffers	Saskatoon	Senior	Midfield
84	Delaware	Nick Diachenko	Courtice	Freshman	Midfield
85	Sacred Heart	Nick Soubry	Oakville	Freshman	Defence
86	Bryant	Nils Thompson	Ponoka	Freshman	Midfield
87	Bucknell	Owen Bennett	Sudbury	Freshman	Attack
88	Loyola	Reid Acton	Toronto	Freshman	Defence
89	Robert Morris	Richard Cambrey	Port Coquitlam	Junior	Defence
90	Stony Brook	Robbie Campbell	Delta	Sophomore	Midfield
91	Drexel	Robert Church	Coquitlam	Freshman	Attack
92	Georgetown	Robert Koger	Toronto	Sophomore	Defence
93	Colgate	Ryan McClelland	Brampton	Senior	Attack
94	Jacksonville	Ryan Serville	Toronto	Freshman	Attack
95	Ohio State	Schuss Logan	Delta	Freshman	Attack
96	UMBC	Scott Jones	Port Moody	Freshman	Attack
97	Hobart	Sean Robinson	Coquitlam	Sophomore	Attack
98	Canisius	Simon Giourmetakis	Edmonton	Sophomore	Attack
99	Syracuse	Stephen Keogh	Toronto	Junior	Attack
100	Georgetown	Travis Comeau	Ponoka	Freshman	Attack
101	Canisius	Travis Gibbons	Owen Sound	Sophomore	Attack
102	Robert Morris	Trevor Moore	Port Coquitlam	Junior	Attack
103	Colgate	Tyler Collins	Toronto	Senior	Defence
104	Robert Morris	Tyler Digby	New Westminster	Freshman	Attack
105	Johns Hopkins	Zach Palmer	Oshawa	Freshman	Attack

Source: Team Websites