

Dawick NLL's top executive

Rock owner third Oakville resident to receive major award from league in past month

Jamie Dawick is the latest Oakville resident to receive a major award from the National Lacrosse League.

The owner, president and governor of the Toronto Rock has been named the NLL's executive of the year for the 2013 season.

"Jamie's goal is to make the Rock a world-class sports franchise," said NLL commissioner George Daniel. "He's very passionate about his team, our league and the sport as a whole. He deserves this recognition and award by his peers."

Other local residents recently recognized by the NLL were Jordan MacIntosh of the Minnesota Swarm (best transition player) and Troy Cordingley of the Rock (coach of the year).

Among Dawick's many contributions to the Rock, the NLL and the sport of lacrosse over the past 12 months was his investment in the Toronto Rock Athletic Centre (TRAC) that opened last fall in east Oakville. TRAC, the first venue in NLL history specifically intended for lacrosse, hosted the 2012 NLL combine and various training camp sessions and preseason games in preparation for the 2013 campaign.

"The TRAC is great for the sport and the NLL," said Dawick. "I'm thrilled that it's open and operating. It will only increase things that we can do with the league. There's benefit to the Rock and Oakville lacrosse community, but the NLL is a huge part of it, too. I think it can be a great hub for our league."

Dawick took ownership of the Rock in 2009 and helped lead the team to the NLL championship two years later. This past season, the team won the NLL regular-season title with a record of 10-6 and finished in the top third of the league in average attendance.

Dawick secured TSN as the official television partner of the Rock for the fourth year in a row with a league-high 10-game package of live coverage of home and road games. Viewership numbers have increased each year and many of the TSN-produced broadcasts also aired live across the U.S. on ESPN3.com in addition to regional sports networks.

The executive-of-the-year award

is determined by a vote of the NLL's board of governors.

"I'm honoured to win the award, especially because it's voted on by my fellow board members," said Dawick, adding the award is also a credit to the strong commitment and dedication of his staff. "To me, it just tells me that people recognize my commitment to growing the league and that's all I'm trying to do – help better my

franchise but also help improve the NLL. Whatever I can do to achieve that, I'm all in."

MacIntosh top transition player

MacIntosh, who had 55 points (27 goals, 28 assists) and ranked second in the NLL in loose balls (197) and fourth in faceoffs won (241), was a six-time winner of the league's transition player-of-the-week award last season.

The Oakville native played university lacrosse at Rochester Institute of Technology and was Minnesota's first-round selection (fourth overall) in the 2011 draft.

"MacIntosh's play has continuously got better and better," said Swarm head coach Joe Sullivan. "His attention to detail is second to none. He can play a great transition game and, as good as he is finding and feeding the ball to his teammates, he's equally as effective going to the net himself."

Second coach award for Cordingley

Cordingley is the first head coach in Rock franchise history to win the Les Bartley Award as the league's top bench boss. He also earned the award with the Calgary Roughnecks in 2009, the same year he won his first NLL title as a head coach.

"This is a real honour," said Cordingley, who played nine seasons in the league — winning titles with the Buffalo Bandits in 1993 and 1996 — before retiring as a player in 2001. "Our coaching staff puts in a lot of time year-round and this award is a reflection of their commitment and hard work as we strive to reach the goals we set for this team."

The award is named after the late Les Bartley, who lost his battle with cancer in 2005. Bartley won seven championships in his 12-year coaching career, posting a .710 winning percentage.



Jamie Dawick



The Oakville Hawks peewee A (top photo) and bantam A field lacrosse teams both won Division 1 gold at the recent provincial championships in Brampton. | photos submitted

Field lacrosse teams win Division 1 titles at provincials

Two Oakville Hawks teams won Division 1 gold and another earned a Division 4 title at the Ontario Minor Field Lacrosse League championships May 17-20 in Brampton.

The under-13 peewee A and U15 bantam A Hawks each defeated teams from lacrosse hotbed Whitby in the Division 1 finals to claim true provincial supremacy. Oakville's peewee D squad edged Halton Hills in the Division 4 championship game.

Peewee A

Oakville's top peewee entry won all five of its games at provincials to finish the field season 13-0. The Hawks defeated Peterborough 9-5, Clarington 7-3 and Guelph 7-4 in round-robin play, Centre Wellington 5-2 in the semifinals and Whitby 8-5 (overtime)

in the final.

Hawks coach Darin Kew said ability and desire to track down loose balls allowed Oakville to control its opponents throughout the season.

"Our team is very hungry for loose balls. We don't get beaten," said Kew. "I actually give awards to players who get the most loose balls in a game. In field lacrosse, the team that controls the ball wins the game, since there's no shot clock like in box lacrosse. If you get the ball and hold onto it, the other team can't score."

Members of the peewee A Hawks are Aden Walsh, Alton McDermott, Ryan O'Hara, Kyle Kachan, Bryce Cordingley, Jack Follows, Ben Doherty, Jack Travassos, Michael Jackman, Cole Salmon, Matthew Hill,

see Bantams on p.32