Mann Cup between Six Nations and Victoria Shamrocks

Kri seeking rare lacrosse feat

By EAMONN MAHER

Staff Writer

He's only just recently turned 22 years old, and yet Acton native Brad Kri is on the verge of accomplishing something that few box lacrosse players before him have been able to boast.

The 6-foot-3, 215-pound transitional player is currently playing in the Mann Cup, emblematic of the Canadian men's senior A lacrosse championship, for the B.C. league-champion Victoria Shamrocks against the host Six Nations Chiefs.

That best-of-7 series was tied at two games apiece entering game five Wednesday night at the Iroquois Lacrosse Arena. Game six is slated for Friday night and game seven Saturday. The same two teams in last year's Mann Cup final, with Six Nations winning in Victoria 4-2.

Kri is looking to complete a rare treble for a career that has landed him a spot with the National Lacrosse League's Vancouver Stealth for next season. He won a Founders Cup national Jr. B title with the Halton Hills Bulldogs in 2010, followed by a Minto Cup Canadian Jr. A championship as a member of the Orangeville Northmen in 2012.

"I've been pretty fortunate that I've been able to follow teams like Victoria that are considered as good organizations to play for, like Orangeville and Halton Hills, with great fan support," said Kri, who was named the OJBLL's East Conference defenceman of the year in 2011 and is a physical force known as The Beast by his Bulldogs' teammates.

"Part of it is being at the right place at the right time and wherever I've gone I've been lucky to have great teammates to play with."

A couple of years ago, Kri was in Victoria visiting Georgetown native and good friend Matt Lyons, who had also played for the Shamrocks. He was awestruck by the beauty of Vancouver Island and the thought of playing his favourite sport there was intriguing.

"I've always had it in my mind that at some point I'd love to live there," he added.

"Every day I can, I'm out there hiking, whale watching, doing things outdoors. I love it there."

Taken in the second round of the 2012 NLL Draft by the team he idolized as a youngster, the Toronto Rock, Kri was assigned to the club's practice roster in 2013 and ended up signing as a free agent by the Stealth earlier this year. Other than a shoulder injury that sidelined him for a few regular-season games, Kri has seen plenty of floor time in his rookie season with the Shamrocks and currently works for a construction company in Victoria part time.

There are a half dozen players from Ontario on the Shamrocks who are well aware of the daunting task ahead this week. The Major Series Lacrosse league champion from Ontario has won eight straight Mann Cups and a B.C. team hasn't won out east since 1986. Victoria does have eight national titles in its franchise history, however, with the last win coming in 2005.

There's also some irony involved for Kri in this series. He did a bit of research on the Mann Cup and learned that the trophy is actually named after an entrepreneur born in Acton in the mid-19th century, Sir Donald Mann, who helped build the Canadian Pacific Railway and received a knighthood for his efforts.

Kri grew up on Longfield Rd. in Acton and the open space behind the family home is called Sir Donald Mann Park.



BRADLEY KRI



GSC wraps up another season

Phoebe Miksic of the Hey Ray team heads for the goal during the Georgetown Soccer Club's Closing Day this past Saturday at Trafalgar Sports Park. Hey Ray took on Paul Armstrong Insurance is an under-12 girls' division house league matchup.

Photo by Ray Lavender

Raiders begin with win over Buffalo Jr. Sabres

After an understandably tentative start, the Georgetown Raiders settled down and scored three times in the second period in a 4-1 victory over the Buffalo Jr. Sabres last Saturday night in their Ontario Junior Hockey League regular season opener.

Liam Clare and newcomer Blake Jones scored power-play goals in the middle stanza following a scoreless opening period, with captain Steve Hladin netting two goals and an assist, including a shorthanded marker to earn the game's first-star honurs.

Netminder Marc Williams

had to make just 18 saves for his first win for Georgetown, with his shutout broken on a power-play goal late in the contest, which drew 228 spectators to the Alcott Arena.

Next up for the Raiders is a trip to Lindsay to face the Muskies Friday night, followed by another road tilt with the Milton IceHawks Sunday.

Georgetown's next home game is on Saturday, Sept. 20 against the Whitby Fury.

The Raiders were missing three of their third-year players for the opener, Anthony Marra, John Adams and Scott Emerson (one-game suspension).

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