

LACROSSE

Nipawin clinic hopes to draw people into lacrosse

SHANNON LACROIX
DAILY HERALD

A lacrosse clinic and exhibition game in Nipawin Saturday had the goal of trapping and scooping people into playing Canada's national summer sport.

Dan Poulin, the director of parks and recreation for Nipawin, said the town hopes to have a team to increase the use of facilities.

"What we're trying to do is get some kids and parents interested to start some sort of a program," he said.

Poulin said there are a variety of sports that are actively participated in during the spring and summer months, but added there is a lull between mid-August and October, where he said having recreational lacrosse might be a good fit.

The goal is to eventually transition from recreation to competition by having a team in the Prairie Gold Lacrosse League (PGLL).

The idea came up as

Poulin spoke to Dave Werret, the head coach of the Prince Albert Predators lacrosse team.

Werret, originally from Nipawin, said having a clinic for parents and children to find out more about box lacrosse and see an exhibition game is a great way to pique people's interest.

"Hopefully, the people that were here will go home and talk about it," he said.

"(Nipawin) is a great sports town and it's in the north and we need to get more communities away from the larger centres, like Saskatoon and Regina. We need to get more communities involved in provincial sports of this type. I want to see it expand."

Box lacrosse differs from field lacrosse because there are fewer players on the floor at a time.

The players transition from offensive to defensive zones more rapidly because the size of the playing area is much smaller. For that reason, the game is

often more aggressive because there is less room to avoid checks.

Three people made it out to the clinic Saturday morning. The three boys, who ranged in age from eight to 14, said they had never really played lacrosse before, but enjoyed the experience.

"It was really fun, tiring though," said 14-year-old Connor Nicklen.

All three said they would join a club in a heartbeat if one started in Nipawin.

Poulin is hoping to host another clinic in the next three weeks, depending on schedules. He would like to attract people who weren't able to make it because of the Easter week holiday.

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RIGHT: Prince Albert Predators' head coach Dave Werret teaches eight-year-old Jared Vik how to keep the ball in the pocket during a lacrosse clinic in Nipawin Saturday. Herald photo by Shannon Lacroix



Predators entertain crowd with 5-4 win over Saskatoon in exhibition LAX

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The Prince Albert Predators came out on top during their second exhibition game, edging the Saskatoon Steelers 5-4 in Nipawin on Saturday.

The entire game was close, with no more than a one-point lead at any given time.

Predators' head coach Dave Werret said the team came out on top because they took advantage of opportunities.

"The biggest (reason) why we won today

was loose balls. I think we beat (Saskatoon) to the ball, and if you beat them to the ball, you gain possession and the more you have the ball, the more you have chances of winning," he said.

Sean Graham, head coach of the Steelers, said even if his team came out at the bottom, he felt they played well against their rivals by keeping the scoring chances minimal.

"Our focus, especially in these close games, is more don't let them score than on us scoring," he said.

Ryan Potie of the Steelers was all over the floor and scored twice, providing a challenge for the Predators, but he admitted the team has to work on a couple of things to beat Prince Albert.

"I think we need to work as a team more. Pass it around, move around more and make some more picks," he said.

Sawyer Lange expertly transitioned from offence to defence for the Predators, standing out with his speed and mastery of the stick, finishing the game with a hat trick.

The 17-year-old corner said he managed to get the ball to the net for a few reasons.

"I just pick and roll and move through my side and get open and get shots and find lanes when they're there. I get set up lots," Lange said.

"I'm not stationary. I'm moving all the time and getting myself open and creating lots of chances for myself."

Even with a victory, Werret said there are a few things he would like to work on with his team so they can end games with a bigger lead.

"We're going to have to get our transition a little bit better, a little bit faster coming out of the box and get the game going faster, get those fast breaks," he said, joking that having smaller goaltenders on the opposite team would help.

The Steelers were the first to make it to the scoreboard.

Jesse Attewell took one from Brayden Farquar and Brad Thiverge at 2:08 of the first.

Prince Albert tied the game at 9:45. Dan

Gyoerick made a quick pass to Sawyer Lange, who took a hard shot, scoring the Predators' first of the game.

The Predators were able to take advantage of a power play by scoring their second goal.

A screened shot and great passing led to Lange scoring his second of the game with the help of Matt Anholt.

Steeler Potie had his first goal of the game, tying the game at two at 3:34 of the second period.

Less than 30 seconds later Taylor Wilcox took a pass from Tanner Corriveau and Cody Folstad to give the Predators a one goal lead at 3:52.

Aaron Jensen made several remarkable saves during the first two periods before he was switched for Brett Lypchuk at 10:34 to allow both players to get a feel for the game.

Potie scored for the second time at 11:18 on a pass from Farquar and Steve Caswell.

Lypchuk was strong, blocking shots despite great passes and fakes by the opponents.

But Saskatoon wouldn't let go with Steven Toporowski scoring on a close range shot, which gave the Steelers the lead at 9:40 of the third period.

Prince Albert wasn't fazed, tying the game at four.

Beautiful cradling and control by Brady Fetch and Gyoerick led to a pass to Lange, who found the back of the net for the third time at 13:51.

Saskatoon player Jordan Haverty missed an open net when Lypchuk left his crease to try to fetch the ball.

Prince Albert's game-winning goal came at 14:53 when Anholt's underhand shot went into the net.

Several penalties were called throughout the game.

The Predators were sent to the box for 15 minutes, while the Steelers were out for 21.

The teams will go head-to-head twice during the regular season, once this month and once in June.

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Prince Albert Predators' Dan Gyoerick takes a shot on net during the second period. While he didn't score, he finished the game with two assists. Herald photo by Shannon Lacroix

So ALL Kids Can Play!

The Provincial Government has officially proclaimed May as KidSport™ Month in Saskatchewan.

Honourable Bill Hutchinson, Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport with Don McDougall, Chair of KidSport™ Saskatchewan.

KidSport™ is a charity which assists children of families facing financial obstacles to participate in community sport programs. The KidSport™ aim is to provide these children with the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of teamwork, dedication and responsibility through participation in sport.

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