

Saints lacrosse opens spring campaign with split in Ohio



By Jake Courtepatte

Spring has sprung, and for Saint Andrew's College that means a return to the field for the varsity lacrosse team.

While Aurora may be feeling some of the effects of winter, the team travelled to Columbus, Ohio last week to get in some early practice against American squads.

Despite fielding what head coach Greg Reid called "one of the most skilled offensive teams we've ever had at SAC," the Saints were outworked in their first test of the season last Saturday against Upper St. Clair from Pittsburgh. The American team took the game by a score of 6 - 4, while Reid praised the efforts of rookie goaltender Caleb Creasor, who made some excellent saves in holding the opponents to six goals.

The offence exploded in the second game of the Saints' road trip, able to secure a 14 - 12 victory over the Pickering North Panthers from Ohio. Creasor was a force again in the first half, holding the Panthers to six goals, while Cam MacDonald, in his second year with the team, potted six goals in the win.

Reid also praised the play of Corey Andonovski, Jason Knox, and Julian Smith-Voudouris, and noted the "outstanding defensive play" from Jack Turner, Sachit Dhiman, Cam Lawrence, and Cole Chapman.

The varsity squad will be looking to continue their success at their annual home tournament starting next week against regional competition.

The CISAA season, an annual battle between the Saints, St. Michael's College, and Upper Canada College, kicks off its schedule April 30 when the Saints visit Upper Canada. They return to home field on May 4 to host St. Michael's.

The thirteenth-ranked Saints fell to the second-ranked St. Michael's College in the CISAA final last season, after handing defeat to a number of other favourites throughout the year. This year, the team will be hoping to recapture the CISAA title they last won in 2009.

They enter the spring season ranked twelfth.

St. Andrew's began a competitive lacrosse program in 1989, led by current U14 lacrosse coach Fraser Cowell. The program won its first CISAA championship in the 2005-06 season, the first of four successive championships. The varsity team has also had success at numerous tournaments over the past few years, including the annual SAC tournament.