

Kwantlen Eagles Men's Soccer News 2010-2011 Season



Headlines:

[Rebuilding Eagles – Improving all the time](#)

[Mid-season matchup: Eagles vs. Royals](#)

[Kwantlen field at Newton Athletic Park officially open](#)

[Tough Outing for Men's Eagles Soccer](#)

[Eagles Kick-Off 2010 Soccer Season](#)

[Eagles Announce New Men's Head Coach](#)

October 20, 2010

Rebuilding Eagles – Improving all the time



Connor Sheepwash

(METRO VANCOUVER, B.C.) Even after facing mathematical elimination from the provincial championships, the Kwantlen Polytechnic University Eagles men's soccer team continues to work hard and improve with every chance they get. This past weekend's was no exception when they took on the Langara Falcons (Vancouver) and the Capilano Blues (North Vancouver).

The Eagles came out to an early lead with a little pressure and a lot of luck. In the 13th minute, the Eagles strikers put pressure on the Falcons defense, creating an own-goal and putting the men in red up one nil.

While holding the lead, and sustaining significant pressure from the Falcons, the Eagles were able to create a few chances, one in the 25th minute found rookie striker Connor Sheepwash (Surrey) with a great opportunity that was stopped by the Falcons goalkeeper. As the pressure continued, the Falcons found the back of the net with seven minutes remaining in the first half, taking a lead that they wouldn't turn back on.

"They went up three to one on us but we fought back," remarks coach Ajit Braich. "Once Nick [Storness-Bliss] (Surrey) scored, the momentum really shifted toward us. We had many chances, just didn't convert."

Sunday's game was another test for the young Eagles' squad, facing Capilano University. "We went down by a goal on Sunday but they didn't give up" says Braich. "It didn't stop them from playing, and showed real character."

When asked about the men's overall performance throughout the season coach Braich was quick to comment that the team "gets better and better every game. I wish the league was longer."

October 4, 2010

Mid-season matchup: Eagles vs. Royals

(METRO VANCOUVER, B.C.) The Kwantlen Polytechnic University Eagles men's and women's soccer teams faced off against local rivals, the Douglas College Royals this past weekend in BCCAA league action. The beginning of October marks the mid-way point of the soccer season and the intensity only escalates as teams are gearing up for the provincial championships, to be hosted at the new Kwantlen turf field located at Newton Athletic Park in Surrey.

Saturday's matchup was a home game for the Eagles side. Kicking off with the women's game the Eagles were able to secure a 3-0 victory over the Douglas College Royals. The opening goal came in the 23rd minute by sophomore striker Shanay Sangha (Richmond) on a redirected shot. Shortly after, freshman goalkeeper Melina Gomez (North Vancouver) did her job to keep the Eagles ahead by a great save in the 25th minute.

Freshman striker Kathleen Gratz (Surrey) continued to perform by scoring her third goal of the season in the 33rd minute to increase the Eagles' lead. And the third and final goal of the game was scored by veteran midfielder Marissa Dionne (Delta).

On the men's side, the game fared far differently. The Douglas men came out fast and furious scoring six goals in the first half. The Eagles defense was unable to answer back to the Royals offence. Tempers ran high in the eventual 9-0 loss.

Sunday's performance was not in the Eagles favor. In the women's game, the Eagles were able to hold off the Royals until late in the first half, when the Royals took a 1-0 lead. The Royals were able to defend their lead throughout the second half and securing a win for their squad.

The men's team came out with the intention of bouncing back from Saturday's match, but the Douglas side had a different idea. "The boys came back with a good mental attitude on Sunday. By no means, was that a team that should beat us nine to nil. They came back, closed down the spaces and for the most part played well on Sunday," says head coach Ajit Briach. Despite the stronger effort the Royals offence was again too much for the Eagles and the scoring continued leaving the Eagles down 5-0 at full time.

At the half-way point of the season the women's soccer team has a record of four wins and two losses, sitting second in their pool and currently holding a playoff spot. The men's squad faces mathematical elimination based on their 0-6 record thus far in the season.

Up next for the Eagles soccer teams are away games against the undefeated Vancouver Island University Mariners on Saturday and the Kermodes from Quest University in Squamish.

September 27, 2010

Kwantlen field at Newton Athletic Park officially open



(METRO VANCOUVER, B.C.) After a long awaited summer, the official field opening ceremony was held this past weekend in Surrey at Newton Athletic Park. Fans were out in the sun enjoying the field and some great soccer action when the Kwantlen Polytechnic University Eagles teams took on the Thompson Rivers University (TRU) Wolfpack from Kamloops.

The field opening marked a very special occasion for the women's Eagles: playing their first home game as the as number one ranked CCAA team in Canada.

The women took the field and were not to be stopped. Eagles goals were scored by rookies Kathleen Gratz (Surrey) and Dominique Lang (Langley) in a 2-0 effort to defeat the visiting Wolfpack.

Coach Gordon Smith said, "Overall it was a good performance. It was a good team effort, we're getting contributions from many players." When asked about the Eagles overall place in the league coach Smith commented, "we've played first four games well and we now have a pretty good sense of where we stand. There's not a lot separating many of the teams I've seen so far."

The men's team took the field looking to post their first win of the season but the Wolfpack proved to have different intentions. The men from TRU were able to score early and took charge of the game, outscoring the Eagles 5-0.

"The outcome Saturday was disappointing for the younger players," says coach Ajit Braich. He said that "mental errors caused the goals after we were dominating the play for long periods of time. The key now is to stay positive regardless of the results."

Both Eagles squads took on the University of British Columbia Okanagan Heat on Sunday. Neither team had the outcome they'd hoped for with the women's team falling 1-0 to a late goal by the Heat and the men following with a 2-0 battle against the visiting side.

September 20, 2010

Tough Outing for Men's Eagles Soccer



Jethro Kambere (Vancouver Sports Pictures)

(METRO VANCOUVER, B.C.) The ten hour bus ride to Prince George didn't stop the Kwantlen Polytechnic University Eagles women's soccer team from sealing their second victory of the 2010 season with a 2-0 win over the UNBC Timberwolves in Prince George.

Kicking the score off for the Eagles was rookie Dominique Lang (Langley) who scored a penalty shot in the first minute of the game. She continued to put in a solid performance and worked hard up front keeping pressure on the Timberwolves defense. The second goal of the match came from Shanay Sangha (Richmond), who scored her second goal of the season, and sealed the Eagles victory. With the support of an airtight defense, Eagles goalkeeper Melina Gomez (North Vancouver) was a defensive machine and made numerous outstanding saves. She finished the match with a clean sheet and sealed her second shutout of the season.

Other notable performances were from midfielder Meghan Nilsson (Surrey) and team captain Brittany McNeill (Delta) who controlled the Eagles back line. The Eagles are currently third in the Pool A standings with a (2-0-0) record.

After a tough loss at their first meeting last weekend, the men's team was determined to tie things up with the Timberwolves, but came up short at full time, losing 4-1. The first and only goal for the Eagles came from second-year forward Jethro Kambere (Surrey), who scored mid-way through the second half. The Eagles kept pressure on the Timberwolves for all 90 minutes, especially in the second half when the Eagles pressed hard to try and squeeze back into the game, but were not able to seal the gap.

Notable performance for the Eagles was from first-year midfielder Bikramjit Pandar (Surrey) who put in a solid effort, playing above his years. "For a young team, we're playing very well," said head coach Ajit Braich. "We just need to reduce the number of individual mistakes." The Eagles are currently fifth in the Pool A standings with a (0-0-2) record.

September 13, 2010

Eagles Kick-Off 2010 Soccer Season



(SURREY, BC)--After a long hiatus filled with change, both the Men and Women's Eagles teams stepped out onto the new turf stadium at Newton Athletic Park to take on the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) Timberwolves.

Coming into the season as the 2009 BC Champions, the Women's Soccer Team were eager to take on the Timberwolves. The game started slow with no scoring although the Eagles had many opportunities to capitalize in the first half. The Eagles got on the board and sealed their 2-0 victory late in the second half with two quick goals from sophomore striker Shanay Sangha (Richmond) followed by another strike within minutes from rookie forward Kathleen Gratz (Surrey).

On the men's side, the team in red fought hard to stay with the Timberwolves going into half with a 2-2 score. Eagles' goals were scored by another rookie striker Gino McLeod (Surrey). The second-half saw the sending off of an Eagles player and with one man down, the Timberwolves were able to capitalize and finish the match with a 4-2 victory.

Despite the result, Head Coach Ajit Briach described the men's performance as "encouraging". "It was a great first performance for a very young team; we have a lot to learn but showed very encouraging signs for the rest of the season".

The Eagles will now travel to Prince George to complete the head-to-head contest with the UNBC Timberwolves Saturday September 18th.

The next home games will be held on September 25th. This event is the official Grand Opening of the new stadium field, and Kwantlen's Homecoming Day. Fans are welcome to join in the celebration along with many Eagles Alumni. The event begins at 11:30 with speeches from dignitaries including Kwantlen Polytechnic University President Dr. David Atkinson, and City of Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts. Women's kick-off is at 12:00pm followed immediately by the men's game at 2:00pm.

February 25, 2010

Eagles Announce New Men's Head Coach



(METRO VANCOUVER)--The Department of Athletics and Recreation is pleased to announce that Ajit Braich has been named Head Coach of the Eagles Men's Soccer program.

Ajit brings over 25 years of professional coaching experience to the Eagles program. He is the Head Coach of North Delta Youth Soccer; the U-14/U-15 of the Coastal WFC, who participates in the USL Super Y League and the Punjab Hurricanes who, under his guidance, won the 2009-2010 Division I championship, therefore advancing them to the Vancouver Men's Soccer League (VMSL) Premier division. He is a BC Soccer Coaching instructor, and holds a CSA National "A License".

"We are excited that Ajit Braich has joined the Eagles coaching team", commented Elise Le Brun, Director of Athletics and Recreation. "He has a great knowledge of local athletes and brings with him the passion and experience to develop an elite soccer program that prides itself on athletic and academic achievement."

For more information on playing for the Kwantlen Eagles, contact Ajit Braich at msoccer@kwantlen.ca.