

# Kwantlen Eagles Women's Soccer News 2010-2011 Season



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# Women's Eagles @ 2010 CCAA Soccer Nationals Recap

## Game 3 vs. Holland Hurricanes

Saturday, November 13 (8:00am PDT)



vs.



2

Final

0

Tara Makragiannis  
Shanay Sangha

## Game 2 vs. Humber Hawks

Friday, November 12



vs.



1

Final

2

Meghan Nilsson

Keyla Moreno (2)

## Game 1 vs. NAIT Oaks

Thursday, November 11



vs.



2

Final

3

Shanay Sangha  
Dominique Lang

Claire McWilliam (2)  
Leanne Kadatz

October 30, 2010

## Women's Soccer Advance to Provincial Finals



(METRO VANCOUVER, B.C) The Eagles women's soccer team made a seamless transition through their semi-final match today against the number one-ranked Vancouver Island University Mariners, defeating them 4-0.

The first goal for the Eagles was sealed early in the game [2:30] when rookie forward, Nicole Gibbons (Delta), executed one of her trademark jumping headers into the Mariners net. Some 10 minutes later, the Eagles scored again; this time by sophomore midfielder, Shanay Sangha (Richmond). Third goal honors went to forward Tiffany O'Krane (Surrey). The fourth goal was an own goal scored by the Mariners.

October 27, 2010

## Three Eagles Named 2010-2011 First Team All-Stars



**Melina Gomez**

**Brittany McNeill**

**Shanay Sangha**

(Metro Vancouver) The British Columbia Colleges' Athletic Association announced the league All-Stars today. Three Eagles athletes were named 1st Team All-Star honours: Melina Gomez (Brittany McNeil (Delta), Shanay Sangha (Richmond). To view the official press release, [click here](#).

The Kwantlen Eagles women's soccer team advances to the quarterfinals of the 2010 BCCAA provincial championships and face the Quest Kermodes on Friday, October 29 at Newton Athletic Park. Game time starts at noon.

Click on the link to visit the [2010 BCCAA Soccer Championship Website](#)

October 25, 2010

## Women soccer finish regular season with best record in team history



(METRO VANCOUVER, B.C.) Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Eagles kicked off their weekend road games in B.C.'s interior with a rusty start but regained their momentum, ending the regular season with a hard-fought win and secured second place in pool A with the best league record in Eagles history (8-1-3).

On Saturday afternoon, the Eagles faced the UBCO Heat (9-2-0). Despite solid efforts by Eagles captain Brittany McNeill (Delta) and sophomore Shanay Sangha (Richmond), the Heat took the victory 3-0.

"We were really out of sorts," said head coach Gordon Smith. "In the first half, we had some chances, and then pushed forward in the second half, but we weren't able to take advantage."

After leaving Okanagan, the Eagles regrouped and headed to Kamloops to face the Thompson Rivers University Wolfpack on Sunday.

Battling through an extremely physical match, the first goal for the Eagles came from Christina Henderson (Delta) who knocked down her first goal of the 2010 season. The insurance goal came from Tara Makrigiannis (Surrey) who scored on a rebound from a foul shot in the closing minutes of the game.

"Sunday's win was really satisfying," said head coach Smith. "It was a tough physical game, and one that we didn't need win to secure second place. To get that second goal meant a lot."

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Read all Kwantlen news and releases here: [kwantlen.ca/news](http://kwantlen.ca/news)

October 18, 2010

## Local rivals, no problem for Eagles women's soccer



### Shanay Sangha

(METRO VANCOUVER, B.C.) The Kwantlen Polytechnic University Eagles women's soccer team took on two local rivals this past weekend, hosting games versus the Langara Falcons (Vancouver) and the Capilano Blues (North Vancouver). Both programs are known for great success in both the BCCAA and CCAA over the years and Kwantlen's Eagles were out to prove that they are a force to be reckoned with.

The weekend began with a tough match against the Falcons who are currently ranked 13 in Canada. The game began with an early goal headed in by Nicole Gibbons (Delta) to start the game. With seven minutes remaining in the first half, the Falcons struck after a corner kick that caused a scramble in the box. Within minutes however, the tenacity of the Eagles' offence triggered a chance for Marissa Dionne (Delta) to lob a loose ball over top of the Falcon's keeper, and scoring what would eventually be the game winning goal.

Sunday's game was a similar team effort with three goals scored by the home side. Dionne and Gibbons both found the back of the net, as did teammate Shanay Sangha, a sophomore from Richmond. "We really took it to Cap in the second half on Sunday," comments coach Gordon Smith.

"Overall, I'm pretty happy," says Smith. "We had some players who really did well. Shannon Reykdal (Richmond) had a very solid weekend. She played very intelligently and composed in the back. We had to adjust on Saturday to the sendoff of Kathleen Gratz (Surrey), and our defense absorbed a lot of pressure from Langara near the end of the second half."

This weekend marked the first back-to-back wins for the Eagles' squad as well, something coach Smith remarks as important as it is "two-thirds of what we have to do in the Provincials."

Kwantlen will go out on the road for one final weekend playing against the UBC-Okanagan Heat and Thompson Rivers University Wolfpack before co-hosting the BCCAA Provincial Championships with Langara and Capilano. All games will be played on the turf at Newton Athletic Park from October 29 to 31.

October 12, 2010

## Eagles undefeated against Kermodes



(METRO VANCOUVER, B.C.) Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Eagles soccer squads took to the field this past weekend with games against Nanaimo's Vancouver Island University (VIU) Mariners, and the Quest Kermodes from Squamish. After a long day on the road on Saturday resulting in a 2-2 tie for the women and a 0-3 loss for the men, the Eagles sprang to life on Sunday in Squamish.

After tying the undefeated VIU Mariners on Saturday, the Eagles women's team traveled up to Squamish and was able to clinch a place in the upcoming provincial championships by securing a 1-0 win over the Quest Kermodes. This opportunity is substantial for the Eagles, as they work to maintain their position as the reigning provincial champions. The Eagles have now secured their chance to repeat this title when they co-host the 2010 British Columbia Colleges Athletic Association (BCCAA) Soccer Provincial Championships held from October 29-31, 2010.

On the men's side, the Eagles had an encouraging game and were leading 2-1 until late in injury time against Quest University but gave up a late goal. Coach Ajit Braich was very pleased with the 2-2 tie saying that "all their hard work is starting to pay off. The key is that the boys and staff never stopped believing in each other and this weekend we had a positive result to show for it."

Outstanding performances were seen on both sides. Jacob Starheim (Delta) was a key player for the men's team this weekend. "His enthusiasm and desire as a rookie have really helped the team," comments coach Braich. "[Starheim] had a number of chances on Sunday and found himself behind defenders with nothing but the goaltender between him and the net on two occasions, and scored the Eagles' second goal of the game."

The women were led by sophomore striker Shanay Sangha (Richmond) this weekend. Sangha has taken on a new role with the Eagles as assistant captain and proved her leadership by scoring two goals this weekend. Her second goal, the game winner against Quest on Sunday is also the goal that secured a playoff spot in the 2010 BCCAA Soccer Provincial Championships for the female Eagles.

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

## **Kwantlen Eagles women's soccer seal another win**



### **Melina Gomez (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.

September 3, 2010

## Eagles Name 2010-2011 Roster



(Surrey, B.C.) The Kwantlen Eagles Women's Soccer team has released their 2010-2011 team roster. This year's roster include a mix of first year players to the BCCAA league, as well as seven returning players from last year's BCCAA Provincial Women's Soccer Championship squad, including 2009-2010 BCCAA All-Star second team members [Marissa Dionne](#) and [Shanay Sangha](#).

The Women's Eagles 2010-2011 season kicks off on Saturday, September 12, 2010 as they take on the UNBC Timberwolves at [home](#) (12:00pm kick off).

You can follow the Women's quest for repeat all season long with us on [twitter](#), [facebook](#), as well as right here, at the home of the Women's Eagles Soccer Team.

Go Eagles!

June 18, 2010

## Eagles Name Women's Soccer Head Coach



(Metro Vancouver, B.C.) The Department of Athletics and Recreation at Kwantlen Polytechnic University is pleased to announce that Gordon Smith has accepted the position of Head Coach of the Eagles Women's Soccer Program. Smith, a Vancouver native, is a former student-athlete in the UBC Thunderbirds Men's Soccer Program, having played in 1993-1996.

Smith joins the Eagles program as the after spending nine years teaching at West Point Grey Academy; four of which he assumed the role as head coach of the Grey Wolves men's and women's soccer program. In 2008, he coached the Grey Wolves to a bronze medal finish at the "A" Provincial and National CAIS soccer tournaments.

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to build on the recent success of the Kwantlen Soccer Program" said Coach Smith. "I am looking forward to working with the enthusiastic and focused group of returning athletes as well as the new recruits coming to the team in 2010".

Smith has an extensive background in coaching, team and athlete development. He holds a Masters degree in education with a specific focus on advanced coaching,

"Gordon brings some key elements and experience to the Eagles program" said Elise Le Brun, Director of Athletics and Recreation. "His passion for the game, experience as a student-athlete and coach education will help develop an exceptional women's soccer program".

The Kwantlen Eagles Women's Soccer Team captured Kwantlen's first BCCAA Provincial Championship in 2009, and a CCAA National Bronze medal.

For more information about the Women's Soccer Program, please contact Coach Smith at [wsoccer@kwantlen.ca](mailto:wsoccer@kwantlen.ca), or visit contact the department at [athletics@kwantlen.ca](mailto:athletics@kwantlen.ca).