

October 31, 2010

Eagles Repeat at BC Provincial Championships



The Kwantlen Eagles women's soccer team successfully defended their provincial title at Newton Athletic Park this weekend in Surrey. The Eagles, who finished their regular season with a best ever record of best eight wins, three losses and one tie, came into the tournament at home with high hopes of earning a trip to the National Championships in Edmonton.

Starting early in the tournament, the Eagles outran, outscored and outplayed their opponents. With league all-star and rookie goaltender Melina Gomez in net, the Eagles outscored their opponent eleven to zero. The North Vancouver product has been outstanding in net, and shutout all 3 opponents in the tournament. Upfront, the Eagles have got offensive contributions play from a number of players, notably Dominique Lang (Langley), Christina Hendersen (Delta), and Shanay Sangha (Richmond) and Marissa Dionne (Delta).

“Throughout the season, we had balanced scoring; the trend continued this weekend and that depth make us a tough team to stop,” says Coach Gordon Smith. “The team got great composure and play from their veteran players along with an injection of energy and timely scoring from their new players. The players are confident on their home field and their self-belief was a huge factor in coming out on top against very tough teams.”

The gold medal match was held Sunday afternoon and the Eagles came out on top again. Taking on the Langara Falcons from Vancouver, the Eagles scored early in the match and were not to relinquish the lead. The first goal of the game was scored by Marissa Dionne (Delta) who chipped it over the keeper's hands in the 6th minute of the game. The second goal also came via the boot of Dionne off a place kick out side of the penalty area which was directed in with a diving header by Tara Makrigiannis of Surrey.

The stand out performer for the final match was Meghan Nilsson from Surrey who received the Player of the Game award for her forceful play in the centre of the field.

Tournament recognition was also awarded to the Eagles' athletes with the awards of Top Defensive Player being given to Eagles captain Brittany McNeill (Delta) and Top Striker awarded to Shanay Sangha who was also named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

With this win, the Eagles have secured their place at the 2010 CCAA National Championships, a feat only once before achieved by an Eagles' team. The national tournament will begin on November 10th in Edmonton Alberta.