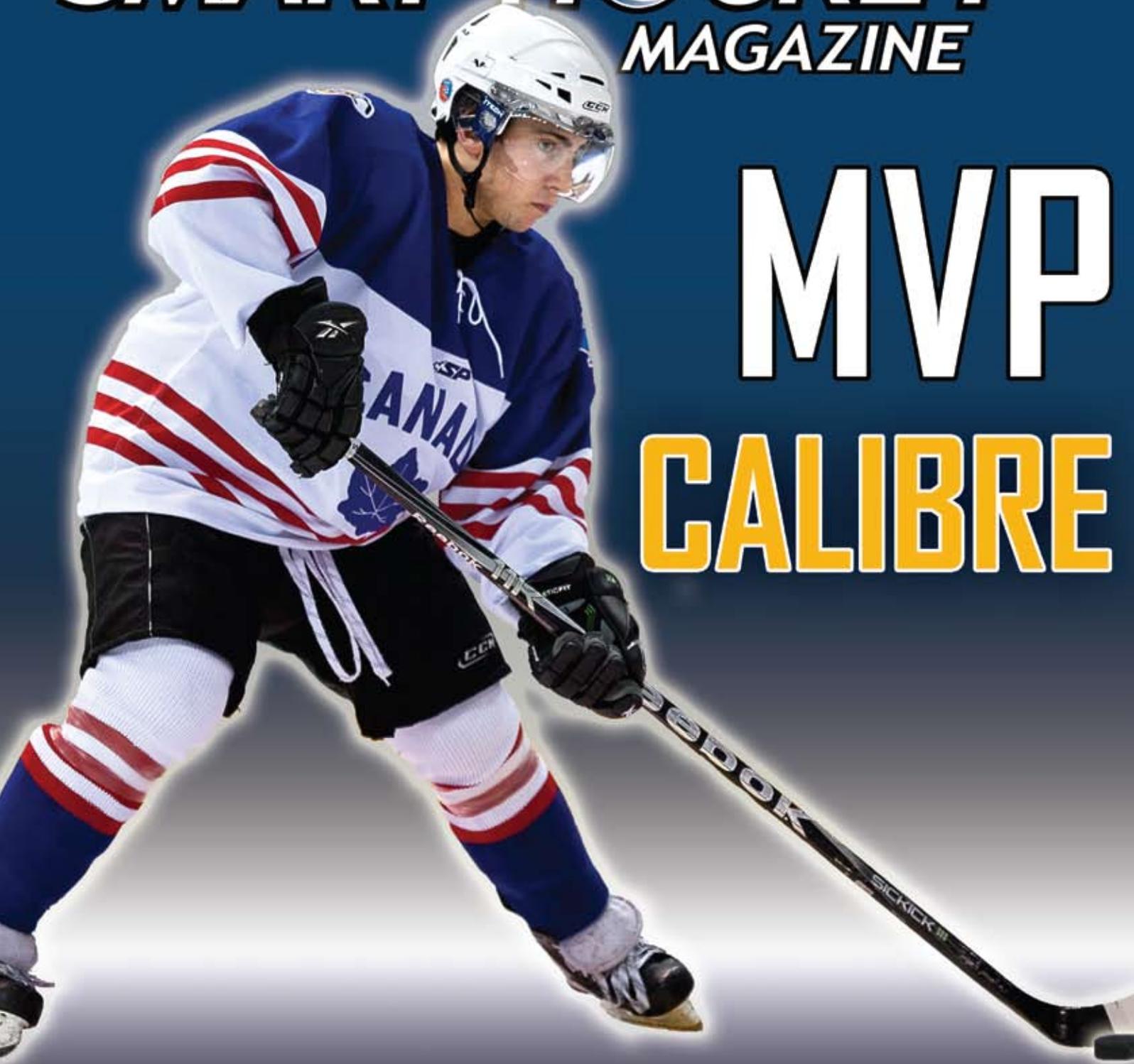


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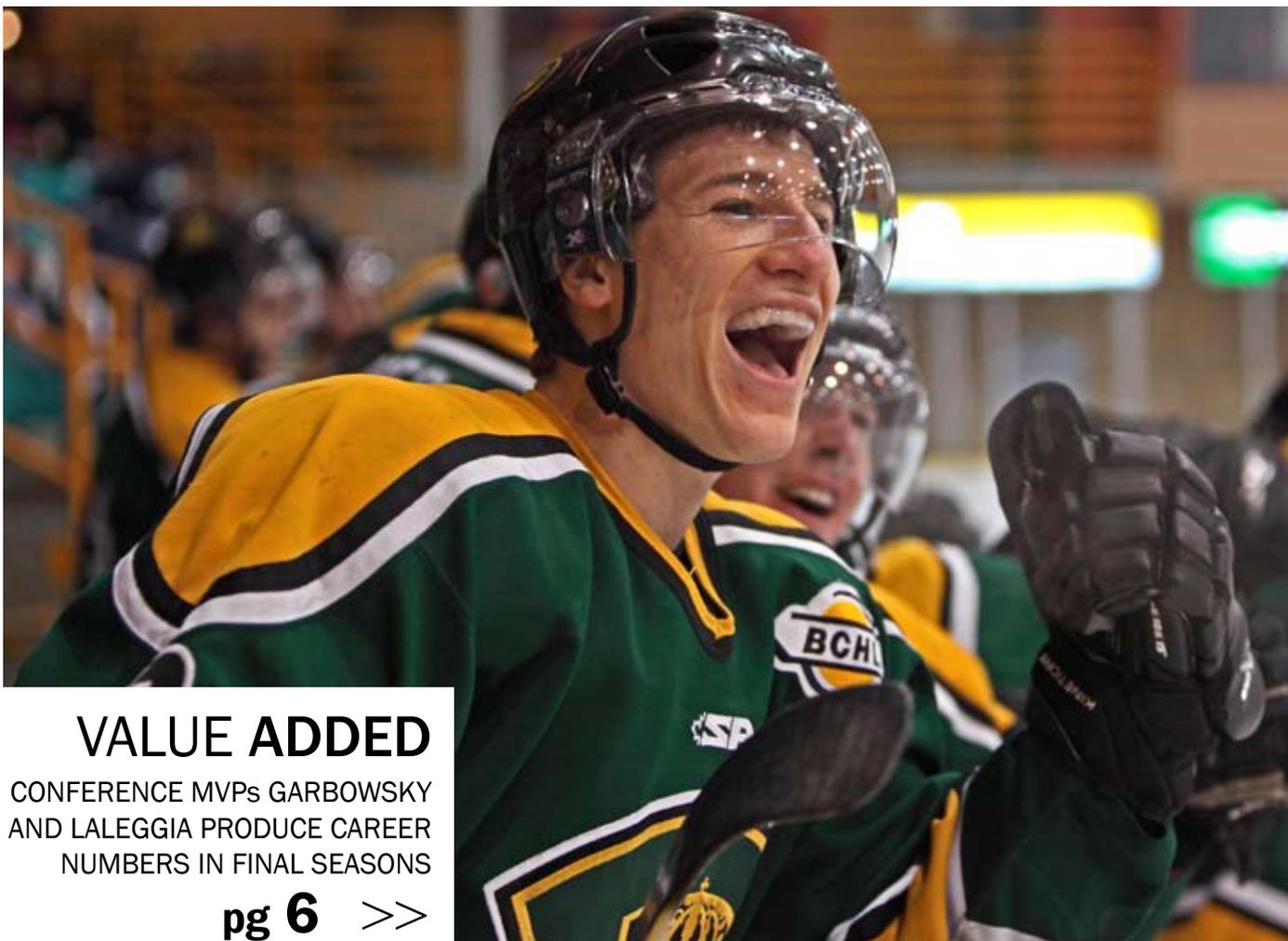
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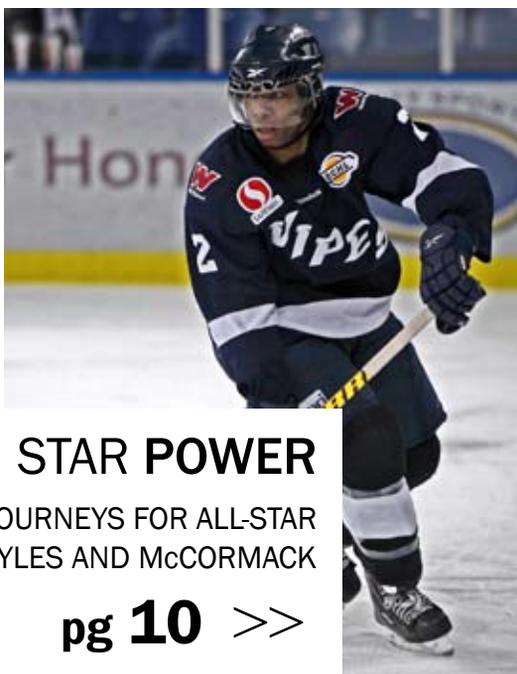
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VALUE ADDED

CONFERENCE MVPs GARBOWSKY AND LALEGGIA PRODUCE CAREER NUMBERS IN FINAL SEASONS

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STAR POWER

LONG JOURNEYS FOR ALL-STAR D-MEN LYLES AND McCORMACK

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EXPRESS' STRAIGHT AND SILVERBACKS' GERVAIS TURN IN TOP ROOKIE CAMPAIGNS

pg 15 >>

FROM THE EDITOR



When it was decided last summer that there would not be an All-Star Game for the 2010-11 season, the BCHL began thinking about how it could honour those that excelled for their teams. This commemorative issue of Smart Hockey is the answer. We've managed to profile each BCHL award winner, all-star and all-rookie team member.

Each BCHL coach was given a ballot to decide the trophy winners, the all-stars and the all-rookie team. Unfortunately there was not enough space to fit the non-voting awards (the Brett Hull Trophy, Wally Forslund Memorial Trophy and the Goaltending Award) into this edition but the winners of those trophies have been acknowledged in other ways.

At press time, the Fred Page Cup playoffs had just been whittled down to the final four. Many of the players in these pages are still making noise for their teams in the postseason so be sure to follow along.

Enjoy! And see you at the rink.

Brent Mutis
Editor, Smart Hockey Magazine

SMART HOCKEY MAGAZINE

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TEAM SUCCESS PREDICATED ON PAIR OF INDISPENSABLE SKATERS

The ups outnumbered the downs for the Penticton Vees and Powell River Kings during the season but good times would have been harder to come by if not for the contributions of Vern Dye Memorial Trophy winners Joey Laleggja and Matt Garbowsky.

Sometimes you've got to take a step backwards before you can move forward again. That's the path the Penticton Vees' Joey Laleggja has taken a couple of times in his career and this season, it resulted in him leading his team in scoring and placing fifth in the BCHL.

As a defenceman.

The Burnaby native earned the MVP nod by posting 20 goals and 62 assists to become the first BCHL defenceman since Duncan Keith, who did it in 2001 with Penticton, to break the 80-point barrier. He could have gone off to school after last season but he chose to hit the gym with abandon and come back to Penticton where he put together one of the best offensive seasons of any blueliner in recent memory.

"I'm pretty happy with how my season went; obviously I've been put on a good team here," says the understated Burnaby Winter Club product. "I'm brought in to be an offensive player and hopefully, I produce and help my team."

Laleggja was something of a hockey prodigy and had an NCAA scholarship to the University of New Hampshire lined up at the age of 15. He also could have joined the Vees at 16 but opted for another year of midget.

"Joey took a real patient approach with his career," says Vees head coach Fred Harbinson. "By not going to college (for the current season), he improved his defensive side and now he's relied on in defensive situations he maybe wasn't before."

Still, it's those goals and assists that grab your attention every time. Laleggja is the first rearguard to reach 20 goals since Prince George's David Keough in 1999. Harbinson says Laleggja possesses a rare skill set that allows him to flourish offensively.

"Joey has a real high hockey IQ and has quick feet to elude defenders. His biggest attribute is he can analyze



SHAWN ZACHARIAS PHOTO

Laleggja put together a season that is not likely to be matched by another defenceman any time soon and Vees coach Fred Harbinson said he ratcheted up his defensive game too.

the ice like others can't and he's got one of the best shots in the league."

Laleggja ultimately didn't accept the New Hampshire deal and in October he signed with the University of Denver. The school has to be excited about what Laleggja has done this season with the Vees and all the more so

when they know he'll be rejoining a player he had success with last year in Penticton, Pittsburgh Penguins first-round pick Beau Bennett.

In the fall on a school visit, Laleggia roomed with the 2010 BCHL leading scorer for a few days and that experience was the deciding factor.

"Me and Beau talk pretty frequently; he was a big help in me going (to Denver) and helped me get a feel for the school."

Laleggia, who will turn 19 in June, is undersized for a defenceman at 5-foot-10, 180 pounds and he knows from Bennett the strength of college players is a big change from Junior A hockey. His commitment to the weight room will help him adjust though.

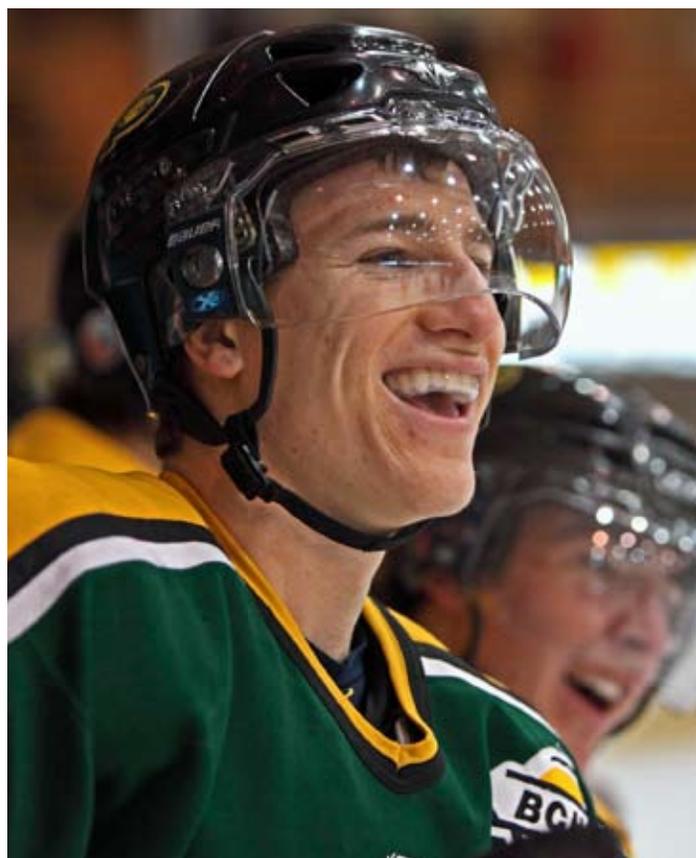
"I've had to compensate for my size my whole life," he explains. "I'll be working in the gym just like every offseason to get bigger and stronger so I can keep my game the same as I switch to the college level."

His coach, who notes a certain Brian Rafalski-type comparison with Laleggia, feels the same way.

"He's his own player but by taking a slower approach, he's really built his body up. With his time in our league, he's really matured as a person and a player." -BM



SHAWN ZACHARIAS PHOTO



On a team of all-stars, it was Matt Garbowsky's league-leading 44 goals that earned him the Vern Dye Memorial Trophy as Coastal Conference MVP.

Opposing coaches, who voted for the honour, felt that the Powell River Kings' 20-year-old forward was the biggest reason for his team's success this season. That's saying something on a team that includes Chad Nidderly, who led the Kings in points, goaltender Michael Garteig, who set two new BCHL records, and defenceman Justin Dasilva, who was named both a conference all-star and top defenceman. The quartet of Kings accounted for four of six possible all-star team selections.

Given the numerous accolades the Kings roster received, it might seem impossible to say one player was most valuable but the key to the Kings' success this year is team defence which begins with Garbowsky's dogged puck pursuit in all zones.

Matt credits his father Mike, a retired police officer and former summer-league coach, with teaching him the 200-foot game.

MVPs feature...



Garbowsky and linemate Chad Niddery share captaincy duties for the Kings and they share the puck too. The pair combined for 166 points this season.

“That’s kind of instilled in me from my dad.” Garbowsky says. “I used to play defence as a kid, but I was told I wasn’t big enough.”

Garbowsky grew up in Wayne Gretzky’s hometown of Brantford, Ont. and played for the nearby Hamilton Junior Bulldogs AAA midget team before two years with the Brantford Golden Eagles of the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League.

In his second season, Garbowsky led the GOJHL in scoring which caught the eye of Kings’ scout Dean Lewis who invited Garbowsky to visit Powell River.

“Justin Dasilva and I came out together. We both weren’t signed at the time. The first day we just talked about how nice it was,” says Garbowsky of his first trip to Powell

River. “I could’ve played in the OPJHL but... I wanted to play as high of a level as I could.”

After that trip, Matt moved 4,400 kilometres to B.C.’s Sunshine Coast and realized a long-time goal when he committed to play for NCAA Div. I Rochester Institute of Technology Tigers who jumped into college hockey’s limelight with a run to the Frozen Four tournament last year

But according to Garbowsky, the school’s academics are just as big a reason to go there.

“It’s school first, then hockey.”

Garbowsky had the option of joining RIT this season but decided to come back for one more with the Kings to take a run at the RBC Cup. Injuries forced the Kings to juggle lines frequently at the start of the season but Niddery and Garbowsky

reunited late in the year, a move which saw the latter score back-to-back hat tricks starting a run of 21 goals in his final 19 games. The Kings went 20-3 to close out the schedule and Niddery ended the year on a 12-game point streak.

“The chemistry was instant. We played a little bit together last year but not like we have this year. We knew this year we would be given a chance to play together and it worked out. Chad plays his heart out. It’s fun to play with him.” Garbowsky says of his line mate.

Garbowsky wears the ‘C’ for home games, Niddery on the road. Despite being very different personalities they both agree they share roles equally rather than assume separate leadership positions.

“Leadership wasn’t in just one guy this year. Kent (Kings coach Kent Lewis) thought that between the two of us it would work. We’re both fine with it and we enjoy it. It’s not like one guy on the team should be vocal, we have a lot of guys on the team that can,” he explains.

The Kings have lost to the two-time defending national champ Vernon Vipers in each of the last two league finals. Both teams have won their respective divisions again and are poised for another showdown. Garbowsky and Niddery hope to lead the Kings over the top in 2011.

“We’re both the competitive type and it will show even more in the playoffs when it comes down to the wire.”

The Kings have taken the Nike slogan “My better is better than your better” into the postseason. Among a talented group of Kings, Garbowsky showed he can be the best of the best. -JS



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BLUELINERS PRODUCE BANNER CAMPAIGNS UPON MOVING WEST

Vernon Vipers defenceman Malcolm Lyles was in search of a fresh start when he moved from Boston and wound up with an all-star honour and a scholarship as did Nanaimo Clippers rearguard Graeme McCormack, who trekked in from Thunder Bay

Malcolm Lyles' journey to the Vernon Vipers is certainly a unique one. For one, few natives of Miami Gardens, Fla. ever lace up skates let alone play Junior A hockey in Canada and two, Lyles played a couple of seasons for the Boston College Eagles before joining the Vipers.

It was sibling envy towards his older brother Milton that motivated Lyles, now a BCHL all-star, to get into the game in the first place.

"My brother started playing before me and, believe it or not, I was jealous of all the attention he was getting," says Lyles of his brother, who now plays lacrosse for the University of North Carolina Tarheels. "(I started) pretty much from scratch but did get a lot of skating lessons, from figure skating to speed skating.

"We were the first in our family to play."

But it was Lyles' father, Milton Sr., that made sure his boys got as much ice time as they could and playing competitive hockey in Florida meant covering great distances to find games. Lyles played for a travel team called the South Florida Golden Wolves that won the Tier II national title, the first team from the Sunshine State to do so.

At 13, he went away for high school to Massachusetts to continue pursuing his ice dreams. Rising through the ranks of prep hockey, he was spotted by a coach from Boston College while at a USA Hockey camp.

But for a variety of reasons, being an Eagle didn't prove a good fit for the 5-foot-10, 180-pound blueliner.

"It was an eye-opener, a learning experience and I can't say I regret being there but it was very much a disappointment because my career would have





Lyles rounded out his game this year with increased defensive awareness while McCormack can't wait for next season with a talented Clippers blueline shaping up.



ended there quietly," he says.

And that might have been it if it was not for a chance meeting in Boston with a former Viper defenceman.

"I ran into Garrett Noonan (now playing for Boston University) and he has ties to (Vipers coach) Mark Ferner who contacted Mark Adams (a trainer Lyles was working with) and they got me this wonderful opportunity."

Not having been to Western Canada before, Lyles wasn't sure what he'd find in Vernon but he's fit right in and really began to excel for the Vipers when Ferner and associate coach Jason Williamson pushed him to join the rush when the opportunity presented itself.

"I jumped up in the play a lot in high school and I thought I would have to completely change my game but the coaches encouraged me and it seems to have been working."

It's at the other end of the ice that Lyles has most surprised himself.

"I've surpassed my defensive expectations because I wasn't the most responsible before."

Opposing coaches have taken notice too and voted him an all-star this year where he totaled eight goals and 30 points. The best part for the 20-year-old is the scholarship he signed with the University of Massachusetts-Lowell River Hawks.

"It was definitely a relief (getting the scholarship)," he says. "Ultimately, I was thankful to have an opportunity to play because my career would have ended with lots of regrets."

Because the River Hawks play in the same conference as Boston College, the UMass-Lowell experience should allow Lyles to atone for those. -BM

It's not lost on Graeme McCormack that he has a chance to be a part of a very special team next season with the Nanaimo Clippers.

Fully half of the team's defence corps has already signed NCAA scholarships and each of those players will be back next season to patrol the Clips' blueline.

McCormack, who's signed with the Bemidji State Beavers, Sam Labrecque, who committed to the Michigan Tech Huskies and Victor Newell, who accepted an offer to play for the Harvard Crimson, all have at least another year before they leave for school.

"Us three have kind of talked about it," says the Thunder Bay, Ont. native who put up 10 goals and 31 assists on his way to the all-star nod. "We have our scholarships already

All-stars feature...



McCormack and the rest of the Clippers are counting on another year's experience helping them get over the playoff hurdle the Victoria Grizzlies have presented each of the last two years and should have the Nanaimo faithful revved up for the coming season in the Hub City.

and with that, we can focus on just putting wins up and having a good season next year.”

Goal-setting seems to be an important part of the 19-year-old McCormack's mindset and he concedes there was some anxiety about not earning a scholarship last season while playing with the Victoria Grizzlies.

“Definitely, it's something you want to happen as soon as possible but it not happening last year was a motivation I carried into the offseason to make sure it happened this year.”

Another motivator going into this campaign was the chance to be named a league all-star. But it wasn't top of his mind when the announcement finally came.

“It was something I hoped for going into the season but after I

heard there was no all-star game, I kind of forgot about it,” he says. “I was stringing some points together there and (Clippers coach) Bill (Bestwick) pulled me aside before a game and let me know; it was kind of a nice touch.”

The scholarship to Bemidji State is validation for McCormack who chose the BCHL after a season playing for the Thunder Bay Bearcats Junior A club of the Superior International Junior Hockey League.

“The way it is in the East, everyone wants to go to the AJHL or the BCHL because it's the premier league you want to play in,” he says. “I made the decision to go the college route so that's why I decided to come out here.”

The returning trio of Clippers defencemen each have a chance

improve on already-impressive resumes. Labrecque was named to the BCHL all-rookie team and Newell finished just behind McCormack in Clips' defenceman scoring. For McCormack, there is also motivation from having his playoff experience cut short this year as he suffered a shoulder injury and played just one postseason game. He's also identified where he needs to upgrade his game.

“Mainly my foot speed and my shot,” says the 6-foot-2, 190-pounder. “Just to get stronger and faster.”

That should be music to the ears of Nanaimo fans, who are not far removed from the Fred Page Cup title of 2007. With a new trio of part-owners recently on scene, it should be an exciting time at Frank Crane Arena next season. -BM

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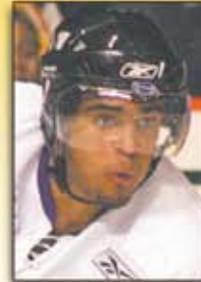
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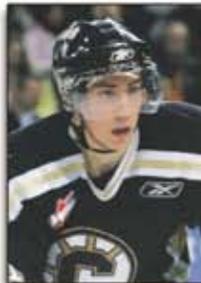
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FIRST-YEAR SNIPERS PUT NAMES ON SCORESHEETS, TROPHIES

Rookie forwards Bryce Gervais of the Salmon Arm SilverBacks and Destry Straight of the Coquitlam Express found different motivations for excellence but discovered similar success earning top-rookie accolades in their debut BCHL seasons



Expectations can do funny things to a hockey player's performance. High expectations come with added pressure and may cause a player to crumble beneath them while low expectations don't bring a burden but may not inspire greatness.

Salmon Arm SilverBack's rookie forward Bryce Gervais' personal expectations for himself this season were somewhere in the middle but the Battlefords, Sask. product surpassed them like he never imagined.

"My goal this year was to get over 20 points," says the 19-year-old. "And I got over 20 goals so I flew over that."

He sure did. And it made opposing coaches take notice as they voted him the Interior Conference Rookie of the Year for totalling 29 goals and 22 assists, spending much of his time on the Gorilla's third line. But it didn't go so smoothly right from the start.

"When I first came in, it took some adjusting," he concedes. "It was sort of a rollercoaster ride really; I was in a slump there for a while but I started getting goals and it all came together."

Making the adjustment to the BCHL was helped by the fact Gervais came to Salmon Arm with Cody Michelle and Taylor Fauchoux, teammates from his Prince Albert Mintos midget AAA team. Also, SilverBacks veteran Josh Manson, a Prince Albert native, gave Gervais the lowdown on the league.

"He told us what it was like and when we came out here, I loved it actually," says the 5-foot-9, 150-pound Gervais. "It helps when you know a few guys."

Gervais had considered Bonnyville and Camrose of the Alberta Junior Hockey League but Salmon Arm had agreed to take all three of the former Mintos. They weren't together all season as Gervais imagined they would be

Rookies feature ...



Gervais snapped into form after a teammate he was close to got moved to a different squad while Straight produced mostly as expected throughout the schedule and now awaits June's NHL Entry Draft.



though. He soon faced a reality of junior hockey when Fauchoux was traded mid-season to the Alberta Junior Hockey League. And though it was tough to deal with at the time, the move coincided with Gervais' emergence on the ice.

"It's tough, but that's hockey; you're not going to have it the way you want it all the time," said Gervais, adding the trade kind of scared him into action. "I started to get goals after that; I realized it could be me (getting traded). Anything could happen."

Putting his mind to his immediate task of helping the SilverBacks win, Gervais blocked out any grandiose thoughts of recognition for his play. He put together a nice season and was caught off-guard by the top rookie honour. He got the news in true 21st Century teen fashion.

"I had no idea I'd won it until I got a text from (teammate Devin) Gannon saying 'Congrats.' I couldn't believe it; I was actually really excited and happy for myself."

He's been happier still in recent days because not long after the rookie nod, he sealed an agreement with Minnesota State University at Mankato to play for the Mavericks in the 2012-13 season.

With all the accolades, Gervais had better be aware he's creating some lofty expectations. -BM

The saying goes 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it.' For Coquitlam Express forward Destry Straight, that was his exact approach when he made the jump from the Vancouver North West Giants of the British Columbia Major Midget League (BCMML) to the BCHL and it paid off as he was named Coastal Conference Rookie of the Year.

Straight had a fantastic inaugural season putting up 67 points (26 G, 41 A) in 59 games to finish second in team scoring and help the Express reach the playoffs. That effort did nothing to hurt his status as the top draft-eligible prospect in the BCHL.

Coming off a midget campaign where he scored 12 goals and 51 assists in just 39 games and led his team to a BCMML championship, he believes keeping that same approach as in midget was the reason why he flourished as a BCHL rookie.

"I didn't really focus on anything specifically [when I made the jump to the BCHL]," says the 6-foot-1, 170-pound centre. "I just fine tuned a few things and played like it was any other game."

Another thing that stayed the same for Straight was the man behind the bench.

“Having Jon [Calvano] as my coach the previous year really made a difference,” says Straight, adding that his desire to maintain NCAA eligibility and his familiarity with Calvano were the main reasons why he chose the BCHL route over the Western Hockey League.

Straight became a major subject of attention this season after he was ranked 82nd among North American skaters by NHL Central Scouting for June’s NHL Entry Draft. It’s easy to imagine a 17-year-old would feel pressure with scouts constantly keeping an eye on him, evaluating his every move but the West Vancouver product says it doesn’t really faze him.

“Obviously it’s a great honor to be considered for the draft, but I try not to think about it too much and really just keep focused on my game.”

That focus paid off as he accepted a scholarship in November to Boston College, committing for the 2012-13 campaign.

“Boston College was an obvious decision for me,” says Straight. “They have a great program with so much history and when I made a trip down there to meet the coaches, I knew that it was the right fit.”

The scrutiny by college and professional scouts wasn’t the only change junior hockey brought.

“The biggest difference [from midget] is the size and speed of the players,” he says. “There are no weak links out there.”

That’s why he felt it was wise to return for another season in Coquitlam despite the fact he will soon graduate from Sentinel Secondary. Before his days at Boston College begin, Straight is still eager to improve before he makes the leap to the next level

“I’m going to be training really hard, getting stronger and working on my skating in the off season.”

As the summer months tick away and the leaves begin to change colour in the fall, one thing will not change: Straight’s desire and mentality to one day play in the NHL. -JD

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VERN DYE MEMORIAL TROPHY

Vern Dye was born in 1922 in Alberta and was part of group of 18 individuals who purchased the Vernon Junior Canadians, a charter-member BCJHL club in 1962. He became the 12th president of what was then the BCJHL in 1980.

He was the long-time general manager of the Vernon franchise and assembled the talent for two league championships. He also managed the town's baseball club for 20 summers.

In 1989, he became the first to be honoured as a BCJHL lifetime member. He passed away in 2004 after a battle with cancer.

Past winners of the Vern Dye Memorial Trophy include:

- Kyle Turris**, Burnaby - 2007
- Jeff Tambellini**, Chilliwack - 2002
- Chuck Kobasew**, Penticton - 2000
- Shawn Horcoff**, Chilliwack - 1996
- Paul Kariya**, Penticton - 1991, 1992
- Dallas Drake**, Vernon - 1988
- Brett Hull**, Penticton - 1984
- Ray Ferraro**, Penticton - 1982



JOEY LALEGGIA



Defencemen aren't supposed to lead their teams in scoring and finish in the top-five in the entire league in points but that's what Penticton Vees' blueliner Joey Laleggia did in this MVP season.

The Burnaby native notched 20 goals and led the BCHL with 62 assists. Not since fellow Penticton alum and current Chicago Blackhawk Duncan Keith's 2000-01 BCHL campaign has a defencemen cracked the 80-point barrier.

Laleggia was a big reason the Vees had one of the most effective and feared power plays in the league this season, one that operated at better than 28 per cent efficiency which was second-best in the BCHL. Laleggia got half his tallies with the man advantage and set up numerous others.

Beyond the scoring stats, Laleggia beefed up his defensive presence for Penticton too and became one of coach Fred Harbinson's go-to guys in shutting down other teams' top forwards.

Laleggia will attend the University of Denver in September.



MATT GARBOWSKY



In a season noted more for defensive accomplishments and goalie records for the Powell River Kings, Garbowsky led the BCHL with 44 goals.

The St. George, Ont. native was as clutch as could be as evidenced by his 12 power-play goals, four shorthanded goals and 11 game-winning goals. He led the team in each of those categories.

That type of production was what opposing coaches remembered in Coastal Conference MVP voting.

It's been quite a ride for Garbowsky who took a bit of a leap of faith in moving west in search of an NCAA scholarship, something he's also checked off the list with a deal that will send him to the Rochester Institute of Technology next season. RIT is one of the programs on the rise in U.S. college hockey having made it all the way to the national semifinals of the 2010 Frozen Four.

As one of four BCHLers heading to the Tigers in the fall, Garbowsky should help ensure the continued success of the program.



BRUCE ALLISON MEMORIAL TROPHY

The BCHL's Rookie of the Year award is named after a man whose British Columbia hockey roots are deep.

Allison moved to the Lower Mainland from Alberta in the 1950s and through the 1960s was involved as a minor hockey coach at various age levels in the Gulf of Georgia Hockey Association (later Sea Fair).

He was a pioneer in emphasizing the concept of hockey scholarships and pursuing the game as a way of achieving and education. There is a scholarship in his name awarded annually by BC Hockey, which he was the 26th president of.

In 1983, he was named president of the BCJHL and served in that role until his passing in 1990.

Some notable names who have won this award include:

- Jamie Benn**, Victoria - 2007
- Kyle Turris**, Burnaby - 2006
- Gilbert Brule**, Quesnel - 2003
- Scott Gomez**, Surrey - 1997
- Brendan Morrison**, Penticton - 1993
- Paul Kariya**, Penticton - 1991



BRYCE GERVAIS



Interior Conference Rookie of the Year Gervais played bigger than he looks in his first BCHL season.

The Battlefords, Sask. product, who checks in at 5-foot-9 and 150 pounds, threw his weight around to the tune of 29 goals and 22 helpers while playing a variety of roles for the SilverBacks.

That production caught the eye of the Minnesota State University-Mankato Mavericks coaches who signed him and teammate Brett Knowles to scholarships in early March.

Gervais' season included a 12-game point streak that went from Dec. 4 to Jan. 8. He scored multiple points 11 times with a four-point game in a Feb. 5 road game at the Alberni Valley Bulldogs. While he was held scoreless 16 times in the first half of the season, he went without scoring only seven times after that.

Gervais will play another season with Salmon Arm before heading off to school and hopes to approach the totals he put up with the Prince Albert Mintos as a Saskatchewan midget national champion when he had 44 goals and 43 assists.



DESTRY STRAIGHT



Straight succeeded under scrutiny this season in Coquitlam as he drew extra special attention not only from opposing defencemen but professional and college scouts.

The West Vancouver native put up 26 goals and 41 assists to finish second on the Express in scoring and 17th in the BCHL, good enough to capture the Coastal Conference's rookie honours.

Straight had 19 multi-point games including the final three games of the season when the Express were battling for a playoff spot. He notched four points on three separate occasions including the night of his first BCHL hat trick, Oct. 13 at Surrey.

The 6-foot-1, 170-pound forward also garnered his share of media attention as his name continually appeared on lists from NHL Central Scouting as the top-rated draft eligible prospect in the BCHL.

But the attention didn't seem to distract the 18-year-old as he actually seemed to get better as the season went along. Of his 19 multi-point games, 13 came in the second half of the schedule.

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TOP DEFENCEMAN TROPHY

This trophy does not yet bear the name of a former league builder or player and has only been awarded since 1975.

In that time though, several players have won the award that have gone on to be drafted and/or play pro and NHL careers.

The list of past winners includes:

- Justin Schultz**, Westside - 2008, '09
- Matt Irwin**, Nanaimo - 2007, '08
- Nathan Oystriick**, Surrey - 2002
- Duncan Keith**, Penticton - 2001
- Steve McCarthy**, Trail - 1997



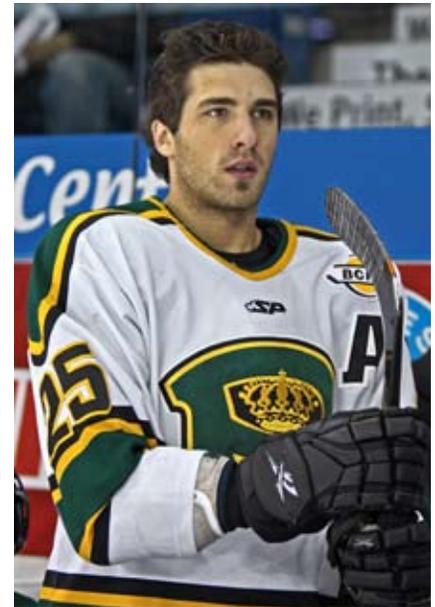
JOEY LALEGGIA



Hopefully, Laleggia goes on to have a long and productive hockey career but it will always be hard to top the year he turned in for the 2010-11 campaign.

The Penticton Vees defenceman piled up a ton of points and also got to pull on the maple leaf during the World Junior A Challenge that was played in November in his home team's rink in Penticton.

Laleggia competed for Team Canada West in the tournament alongside fellow Vees Mark MacMillan and Brendan O'Donnell.



JUSTIN DASILVA



One of the big reasons the Powell River Kings were so tough to score on this year was big defenceman Justin Dasilva.

The 6-foot-5, 215-pound Cambridge, Ont. native made big strides in his second BCHL season as a steady blueline presence while also increasing his point production to lead Kings d-men with 11 goals and 32 assists.

Dasilva and fellow vet Jason Yee were counted on for shut-down defense which should pay off as Dasilva makes the transition to college at Ohio State University this fall.

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BOB FENTON TROPHY

Bob Fenton was a successful owner and coach of the New Westminster Royals in the 1960s and 70s.

Before the Royals and Victoria Cougars joined the Kelowna, Vernon, Kamloops and Penticton franchises in 1967 to form the BCJHL, New Westminster was a powerful team in the Pacific Coast Junior Hockey League. Under Fenton, the Royals won five straight PCJHL titles and three consecutive Mowat Cups as the top Junior A club in B.C.

Fenton's 1966 and 1967 Royals clubs were the top teams in the province as they swept the Kamloops Kraft Kings and Penticton Broncos respectively in the provincial finals.

The trophy bearing his name is awarded to the player in each conference showing sportsmanship while excelling at the game.

Past winners of this award include:

Paul Kariya, Penticton - 1991, 1992
Steve Kariya, Nanaimo - 1995
Jeff Tambellini, Chilliwack - 2002
Zac Dalpe, Penticton - 2008



BRAD MCGOWAN



After a solid first BCHL campaign that saw him put up 12 goals and 34 assists a year ago, McGowan exploded in his sophomore campaign and nearly grasped the Brett Hull Trophy before Mike Hammond overtook him late in the schedule.

The 6-foot, 175-pound Langley native notched 36 goals and 53 assists to lead the Surrey Eagles and finish tied for second in the BCHL scoring race. His icetime was seldom curtailed as he spent just 26 minutes in the penalty box, the fewest of any player in the league that had better than 65 points.

McGowan was particularly dangerous on the man advantage and finished tied for second in the BCHL with 15 power-play tallies. He could also be counted on in crunch time as his nine game-winning goals would attest.

In the fall, McGowan signed with the Rochester Institute of Technology Tigers and will join fellow BCHL graduates Matt Garbowsky, Brandon Thompson and Brad Reid with the Tigers next season.



GRAYSON DOWNING



Three-year BCHL vet Downing's point totals have risen each year since he was a 16-year-old rookie in 2008.

So have his penalty minutes but after playing a career-best 52 games - nine more than his previous high of 43 - his penalty minutes only went up by a mere two minutes and he still only spent a paltry half an hour serving time in the box this season.

Downing had 23 multi-point outings on his way to 34 goals and 36 assists this season. He tallied a hat trick on Oct. 29 against Surrey and had four three-assist games.

The Abbotsford product was a consistent performer for the Warriors this year and finished second in team scoring, eight points back of captain Alex Grieve. But he led the team in power-play markers with 13 and shorthanded tallies with five.

A 1992-born player, Downing could spend another two seasons in the BCHL if he wanted but has shown he's ready to make the jump to the college game. In the coming season, he'll suit up for the Wildcats of the University of New Hampshire.



JOE TENNANT MEMORIAL TROPHY

Joe Tennant started coaching junior hockey in the mid-1950s and took the Kamloops Rockets to the BC provincial title, the Mowat Cup, in 1971. He earned the title again in 1978 as coach of the Merritt Centennials.

He garnered a reputation as one of the best Junior A coaches in Canada for his success with Kamloops and Merritt in the 1970s. His teams were high scoring with the 1978 Cents squad notching 489 goals and boasting four 50-goal scorers.

Over the course of his career, in addition to his two Mowat Cups, Tennant himself won the league coaching award in 1978 with Merritt before the trophy was renamed. The Joe Tennant Memorial Trophy is today awarded to the two coaches deemed best in their respective conference that year.

Current coaches with multiple awards:
Harvey Smyl (1991 - New Westminster Royals, 1996, 1998 and 2001 - Chilliwack Chiefs)
Mark Ferner (2009, 2010 - Vernon)
Bill Bestwick (2005, 2008 - Nanaimo)
Kent Lewis (1994, 2009, 2011 - Powell River)



KENT LEWIS



No stranger to coaching accolades, Lewis has now won the Joe Tennant Memorial Trophy three times. He also took home the hardware in 1994 and 2009.

The 44-year-old guided this year's Kings to a league-best 46-9-3-2 record, 12 points better than the Vernon Vipers who had the league's next-highest point total.

Probably the most impressive statistic about Powell River was they set a new league record by allowing just 115 goals against this season, breaking Vernon's mark of 119 from a year ago.

But the Kings also featured the league's top goalscorer in Matt Garbowsky who sniped 44. The Kings' roster this season included eight players who have signed NCAA scholarships.

On February 13, Lewis joined Harvey Smyl and Bill Bestwick as current BCHL coaches with 500 victories. The majority of those wins come with the Kings as Lewis began coaching in Powell River in 1990 but he also spent stints in Victoria and Nanaimo.



TIM KEHLER



Being the third SilverBacks head coach in three years, Kehler appears to have brought some stability to the organization and helped fans forget about last season's disappointing first-round playoff loss to the Quesnel Millionaires by winning the first four games of the season including two over arch-rival Vernon.

Kehler, 39, re-established the winning expectation in the Salmon Arm dressing room and had the SilverBacks in first place in the Interior Conference for a period late in the schedule. The Gorillas wound up in third place with a 38-19-2-1 mark and were one of the highest-scoring teams in the league, averaging almost four goals a game.

He made a big splash on Jan. 10 by acquiring Mike Hammond from the Cowichan Valley Capitals. Hammond went on to claim Salmon Arm's second straight Brett Hull Award as the BCHL's top scorer.

After getting his BCHL coaching start with Surrey, Kehler was head coach in Trail for three seasons before spending three years with the Swift Current Broncos of the Western Hockey League as an assistant.

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MICHAEL GARTEIG



When Garteig posted a shutout on opening night Sept. 10 against the Alberni Valley Bulldogs, it was a sign of things to come. The Prince George product would go on to tie the league record for goose eggs, collecting seven on the season which matched Brad Thiessen's 2005-06 campaign total.

He also set new league marks for save percentage at .934 and goals-against average at 1.69. The 6-foot-1, 185-pound stopper was twice named BCHL Player of the Week, and had a 10-game unbeaten streak from Oct. 29 to Nov. 21 during which he allowed just 12 goals.

Garteig and backup Sean Maguire also won the Wally Forslund Trophy for Best Goaltending Duo.

2010-11 Statistics:	
Games:	48
Record:	36-8-3
GAA:	1.69
Sv. %	.934
SO:	7
*Won Goaltending Award based on lowest GAA with 1000 minutes played	



GRAEME McCORMACK



McCormack came into the 2010-11 season with a few things to prove to himself. Being named a Coastal Conference all-star and earning a scholarship to Bemidji State University answered some of the questions.

The Coastal Conference all-star defenceman set new personal goals and assists marks and showed more aggressiveness with 41 penalty minutes compared to 16 a season ago.

The 6-foot-2, 190-pounder led Clippers defencemen in scoring and notched 10 multiple-point games, highlighted by a two-goal, one assist outing Oct. 17 against Langley. He had a six-game scoring streak from Nov. 24 to Dec. 5.

2010-11 Statistics:	
Games:	56
Goals:	10
Assists:	31
Points:	41
PIM:	41
PPG:	8
GWG:	2



JUSTIN DASILVA



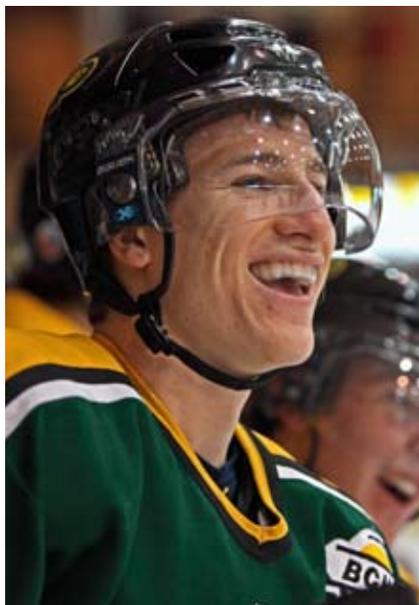
Besides being a physical, shut-down presence on the Powell River Kings blueline, Dasilva earned the all-star nod by upping the ante on the offensive side this season too.

Dasilva was nearly at a point-a-game pace through the first 30 games with six goals and 22 assists.

The first half of the schedule also saw an eight-game point streak that lasted from Oct. 29 to Nov. 19 and included four goals and eight assists. There were a pair of three-point outings in that stretch which were Dasilva's highest single-game output of the season.

Dasilva had eight fewer penalty minutes this year despite playing four more games.

2010-11 Statistics:	
Games:	54
Goals:	11
Assists:	32
Points:	43
PIM:	81
PPG:	6
GWG:	5



**MATT
GARBOWSKY**



L leading the BCHL in goalscoring is an impressive feat but that's just the tip of the iceberg for Coastal all-star forward Garbowsky.

He also took home the Vern Dye Memorial Trophy as the conference MVP and played a pivotal role in the Powell River Kings' dominance of the regular season.

Garbowsky was one of only two players, along with Langley's Josh Myers, to crack the 40-goal plateau this season and did so thanks to the 11 tallies he put up in the season's final 10 games. He scored in 18 of the team's final 19 games including a season-high five-point game Jan. 28 against the Cowichan Valley Capitals.

The longest he went without a point this year was three games.

2010-11 Statistics:	
Games:	56
Goals:	44
Assists:	36
Points:	80
PIM:	56
PPG:	12
GWG:	11



**BRAD
MCGOWAN**



Prolific would be the correct word to describe McGowan's scoring prowess in his sophomore BCHL campaign.

He began the year by scoring in 18 straight games, which wound up being his longest string of the year, and had a season-high six-point evening Sept. 17 against the Nanaimo Clippers.

McGowan had multiple points in an astonishing 37 of the 59 games he played this season and never went more than three games without hitting the scoresheet. His 36 goals tripled his output from last year.

The Langley product began the playoffs the same way he did in the regular season, scoring in nine straight games and had multiple points in eight of those contests.

2010-11 Statistics:	
Games:	59
Goals:	36
Assists:	53
Points:	89
PIM:	26
PPG:	15
GWG:	9



**CHAD
NIDDERY**



Niddery and Matt Garbowsky formed the most dynamic offensive duo in the league this season as they teamed up for 166 points, the most of any two BCHL teammates.

A Penticton native, Niddery is one of the league's most seasoned veterans, this being his fourth campaign with the Kings. In 212 regular season games, he's put up 220 points including 150 assists.

The 5-foot-10, 170-pound setup man produced a career year, besting last year's 66 points by 20 and led the King in scoring. He finished the season on a 12-game point streak.

Niddery has a scholarship to Ohio State University and will suit up there along with fellow King Justin Dasilva.

2010-11 Statistics:	
Games:	56
Goals:	28
Assists:	58
Points:	86
PIM:	70
PPG:	4
GWG:	4



KIEFER SMILEY



You have to look beyond the wins and losses to get a true measure of this Trail Smoke Eaters all-star goalie.

Smiley played the third-most minutes in the league and stopped the third most shots on his way to a .915 save percentage.

The 6-foot, 187-pound netminder from Duncan has been around the BCHL for four seasons now and established career marks in all major statistical categories except shutouts. (He had three with the Cowichan Valley Capitals in 2007-08).

When Trail suffered through injury woes this year or were without key players due to international or prospects commitments, Smiley gave his team a chance to win every night.

2010-11 Statistics:	
Games:	47
Wins:	23
Losses:	22
OTL:	2
GAA:	2.83
Sv. %	.915
SO:	2



SHAWN ZACHARIAS PHOTO

JOEY LALEGGIA



Shelf space will be at a premium in the Laleggia household given the number of trophies the the Penticton defencemen picked up this year.

In addition to the Interior Conference MVP Award, he took home the Top Defenceman Trophy and was named a conference all star. He also likely earned some keepsakes from his time with Team Canada West at the World Junior A Challenge.

The Burnaby native entered an offensive realm few defencemen have in the past few years. He never went more than two games without a point and fashioned a league-high 18-game scoring streak from Nov. 27 to Jan. 21 that produced eight goals and 22 assists.

2010-11 Statistics:	
Games:	58
Goals:	20
Assists:	62
Points:	82
PIM:	47
PPG:	10
GWG:	3



MALCOLM LYLES



Not much was known about Lyles coming into this past season because he'd been at college for two seasons and played much of his hockey on the U.S. east coast.

The word is out now about the smooth-skating all-star blueliner's strength and ability to join the attack as well as take care of his own end.

A four-assist night on Dec. 8 was the high-water mark for Lyles this season and signaled his increased offensive presence in the Vernon attack. He scored at opportune times with three of his markers being game-winners.

Lyles made the most of his lone BCHL season, earning an NCAA scholarship to play for the University of Massachusetts-Lowell.

2010-11 Statistics:	
Games:	54
Goals:	8
Assists:	22
Points:	30
PIM:	71
PPG:	2
GWG:	3



**MIKE
HAMMOND**



Amid-season swap from the Cowichan Valley Capitals to the Salmon Arm SilverBacks did nothing to slow Hammond's all-star pace and he wound up with the Brett Hull Trophy as the league's top scorer to boot.

In fact, Hammond's 14-game scoring streak from Dec. 3 to Jan. 22 was split between the Caps and 'Backs. Hammond's only slump, if you could call it that, of the season came in a mini two-game drought Feb. 12 and 16. Other than that, opposing defences seldom had an answer for the Victoria native.

He scored four points on three occasions and had 10 three-point games including three straight from Jan. 28 to 30.

2010-11 Statistics:	
Games:	57
Goals:	39
Assists:	54
Points:	93
PIM:	38
PPG:	13
GWG:	3



**ALEX
GRIEVE**

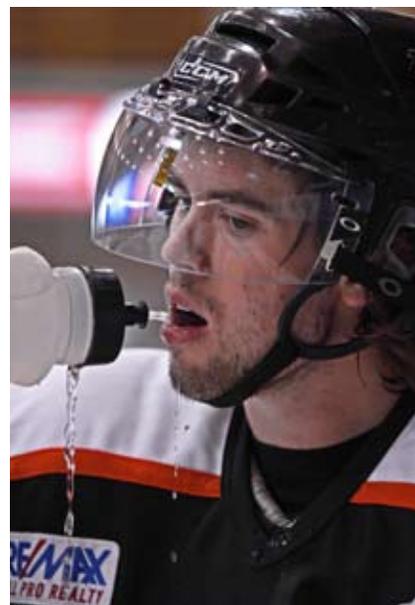


One of the BCHL's best leaders, three-year veteran Grieve turned in his best season in his last and will play for Bentley University in September.

A Calgary product, Grieve played all 60 regular season games each of the last two years and saw his numbers jump each season he was in the league. He did cut down on penalties though, taking 19 fewer minutes this year than last.

The 6-foot, 190-pound all-star earned Player of the Week honours three times this year including the first week of the Fred Page Cup playoffs. His most productive stretch was a five-game span Jan. 28 to Feb. 9 that saw him pile up 14 points. He had points in 10 of 13 playoff games.

2010-11 Statistics:	
Games:	60
Goals:	31
Assists:	47
Points:	78
PIM:	53
PPG:	10
GWG:	3



**SCOTT
JACKLIN**



Despite being limited to 51 games this year due to injuries, Jacklin still earned an all-star nod and had the most productive campaign of his four-year BCHL career.

When he dressed, the Kimberley native could be relied on to score and on just two occasions did he go more than a game without points. Each of those was a mere two-game drought.

Jacklin is more of a setup man and had six games where he notched three or more assists. His longest scoring streak was eight games from Oct. 20 to Nov. 9 when he put up 17 points.

The 6-foot, 185-pounder is headed to Robert Morris University in September to play for the Colonials.

2010-11 Statistics:	
Games:	51
Goals:	23
Assists:	50
Points:	73
PIM:	35
PPG:	6
GWG:	3

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**KEVIN
BOYLE**



Boyle made his lone season in the BCHL a good one as he was the Warriors go-to backstop and posted a 20-win season in earning a scholarship to the University of Massachusetts. The Manalapan, N.J. native began the season with four straight losses but found his form as the season went on won his last five decisions.

2010-11 Stats: 39 Games, 20-16-1, 3.02 GAA, .902 Sv.%, 1 SO



**SAM
LABRECQUE**



Granby, Que. native Labrecque made a name for himself quickly this season, making the opposition take note of his offensive prowess. He posted the third-highest goal total among defencemen with 15 and added three more five playoff games. Labrecque will be back with the Clips next season before heading to Michigan Tech.

2010-11 Stats: 47 games, 15 goals, 12 assists, 2 PIM



**CRAIG
DALRYMPLE**



Lanky defenceman with offensive capability are highly-coveted assets and the Powell River Kings have a prime example in Dalrymple. The 6-foot-4, 205-pound rearguard notched 35 points in his first BCHL season and landed a scholarship to Ohio State along the way. The Kippen, Ont. product will play another season with the Kings.

2010-11 Stats: 58 games, 9 goals, 26 assists, 18 PIM



**JOEY
BENIK**



Lleading your team and all rookies in goals is one sure-fire way to make an impression and that's how Benik made his mark in his first season. The Andover, Minn. native notched a 30-goal campaign and produced almost a point-per-game pace in the regular season. He's committed to St. Cloud State for the coming season.

2010-11 Stats: 58 games, 30 goals, 26 assists, 12 PIM



**BRYCE
GERVAIS**



After a slow start to the campaign, Battlefords, Sask. product Gervais came alive in the season's second half to challenge Benik for the rookie goal-scoring lead. This mighty-mite package of a player saw time on each of the SilverBacks four lines and recently accepted a scholarship to Minnesota State University-Mankato for 2012-13.

2010-11 Stats: 58 games, 29 goals, 22 assists, 49 PIM



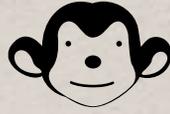
**DESTRY
STRAIGHT**



Fighting through the extra attention from opposing defencemen and coping with the glare of the media and scout spotlight, Straight came up aces in his rookie campaign, leading all rookie scorers. He finished in the top-20 in league scoring and secured a scholarship to Boston College. He is projected to be a high pick in this year's NHL Entry Draft.

2010-11 Stats: 59 games, 26 goals, 41 assists, 48 PIM

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