

Prince George Ringette Open A Team 2008/2009



The PG Open Ringette team did not come home from the BC Ringette 'A' Provincials, held this past week in Coquitlam, with a medal but they did come home knowing that they can compete with the best Open teams in BC.

The coaches, Madeleine & Brian Crandell & Bill Engler, agreed that the best part of the Provincials was seeing the team's performance getting better and more consistent after each game. By the 4th game, their 'A' game really came together dominating Kelowna by a 9-4 score, for their 2nd victory. But their best performance was still not good enough for the team to move onto the medal round. Only the top 2 teams from each pool advanced to the medal round and the PG squad ended up in 3rd place with a 2 & 2 record.

The 2 lost game scores were no indication of just how well they really played.

In their first game against Fraser Valley, one of the dominating teams in the Lower Mainland, PG were only down 3-2 after the 1st half and were in a great position to pull off an upset. But with the score 5-3 in favor of Fraser Valley then PG had a defensive melt down and allowed 4 goals in a 3 minute span. Recovery was impossible and Fraser Valley won 10-3.

The 2nd game against Delta was definitely the game PG should have won and was eventually the game that proved to be the one that kept them from medal contention. At the end of the 1st half Delta was ahead 4-2 and in the 2nd quickly padded their lead with 2 goals in a one minute span. PG came back with 2 goals of their own but Delta added an empty net goal and sealed a 7-4 victory. We definitely outplayed, held territorial advantage and out shot Delta but their goaltender, was the difference and stoned our offence. It was definitely our best offensive game in terms of creating offensive chances but the spot light and stage belonged to the Delta goaltender.

The 3rd game was a thriller against an older Fraser Valley team. PG came out with a strong defensive checking game against the more experienced ladies and after the 1st half the teams were tied 2-2. The teams were tied 4-4

and with 6.3 seconds remaining Rory Bird scored the winning goal for the Flames giving the team its 1st victory.

The final game against Kelowna was our best complete game of the season as a team in terms of offensive production and defensive coverage and checking. The 1st half was very close with PG holding a slight 3-2 lead. But the 2nd half was all PG, completely dominating offensively by scoring 6 goals and defensively holding Kelowna to 2 goals.

Considering that our Open team had only played 7 games prior to provincials 4 in Richmond and 3 in Kelowna we did well placing 5th in the province. The ladies are already talking about next year, bringing more players into the open division to make 2 teams and being a competitive force within BC.

The girls might not have brought a medal home but they did win the FAIR PLAY AWARD which is voted by the other teams.

This year's Open Provincial team members are:

Offense: Rory Bird, Stacey Brown, Stephanie Crandell, Michelle Fjellgaard, Pam Milsom, Gillian Missellbrook

Defense: Andrea Bertulli, Nicole Crandell, Sara Engler, Carrie Fjellgaard,

Goalie: Lisa Matzelle