

## Pioneers have a new team to worry about in WCSLA

### North Shore loads up on talent hands Ladner 1st loss

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Ladner Pioneers Colton Dow heads up floor during his team's 8-7 overtime win over the Langley Warriors. The Pioneers host Victoria and Nanaimo this weekend. Photograph By Mark Booth

The West Coast Senior Lacrosse Association was turned upside down last Friday in West Vancouver.

The Ladner Pioneers were fresh off a huge 8-7 overtime win one night earlier over the Langley Warriors, in a first place showdown, to remain the league's only unbeaten team at 7-0-0. That was until the winless North Shore Indians came along.

Already with some WLA or NLL offensive standouts in their line-up, the Indians shored up their roster even further with the signings of six more top end players last week.

North Shore proceeded to pick up its first win of the season - drubbing the Pioneers 14-5. So is a 1-7 team suddenly the one to beat? Apparently so, even though the Indians will likely have to run the table in their final six games to secure a playoff position.

Pioneers head coach Ross Frehlick has seen plenty in his years of involvement as a player and coach in the senior "B" circuit, but never a development quite like this. Typically, it's teams near the top of the standings adding a key player or two for a potential championship run; not a near makeover of a last place team.

"They are putting together one of the best teams money can buy," said Frehlick in reference to players receiving financial compensation. "They already had some top end offensive guys and now they have addressed what they need at the back too.

"I think our guys were surprised a bit on Friday. We can definitely play better but there's no doubt that is a very good team."

The Indians were led by seven points from Athen Iannucci. Steve Hinek had four goals, while Alex Gajic and Tyler Garrison each had a pair. Nate Clare scored twice for the Pioneers.

The result came after Ladner's best performance of the season as they battled back to defeat the Warriors in a highly entertaining affair.

Langley took a 7-6 lead with 1:13 remaining, however Ryan Keith equalized with 47 seconds left. Sam Clare then completed the comeback with his second of the night on an unassisted effort at the 3:52 mark of overtime.

Quinn Waddington had a hat trick, while Mike Berekoff and Nate Clare also scored. Rob Cook was superb in net making 42 saves.

The Pioneers have a rare home doubleheader this weekend against the Victoria Wolves and Nanaimo Timbermen. The Wolves visit Ladner Leisure Centre at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. The Pioneers and Timbermen then square off Sunday (1 p.m.) at the South Delta recreation centre.

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