

2017 Women's National Field Hockey Program Athlete Report

Introduction

The fall of 2016 provided an extended block of training for the Women's National Program (WNP). The primary focus was to get back to and improve upon the basics, build team cohesion and maximize physical fitness. The fall retreat in Whistler featuring sessions with Field Hockey Canada alumni Dr. Karen MacNeil, provided a significant opportunity to work on team culture and sport psychology.



In January of 2017, the program travelled to Gold Coast, AUS for a training tour that previewed the venue for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. The program has played 9 international matches against the following teams: IND (World Ranking: 12), CHI (20), BLR (21), MEX (30), TTO (35). All of these matches took place at home in West Vancouver during the World League 2 preparation series and tournament. Although the preparation series was successful, seeing Canada win all three matches (two versus Chile and one versus India), the WNP was extremely disappointed with the 5th place finish at the tournament which excluded their participation at a World League 3 event. The WNP would like to again thank all of the volunteers and tournament organizers for putting on a world-class event especially in the grueling weather conditions.

Since World League 2, the WNP has reset their focus for the 2017 Pan American Cup which will be played August 5-13 in Lancaster, USA. To prepare for this tournament and final opportunity to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, the WNP played a 3-game inter-squad Super Series July 11-19.

The loss of Sport Canada Targeted Excellence Funding via Own the Podium has been a significant stressor for the WNP. One result of this loss in program funding has been the drastic decrease in international competition experience. In 2015/2016 the WNP played over 20 international matches, most of which were against top 10 teams, while in 2016/2017 the WNP has played only 9 international matches with the highest ranked team being India (12).

In an effort to alleviate the financial burden of the current "pay to play" situation, the WNP has launched numerous fundraising events including participation in the Sport BC Summer Warm Up Canada Day event, hosting of the **Call to Arms** fundraiser which raised over \$26,000. The WNP will continue to promote the ongoing **Heart of Hockey** campaign and is appreciative of the development of this campaign which has brought in over \$15,000 to date. The WNP like to express their gratitude to the national field hockey community for their continued support and ask the membership to share the **Heart of Hockey** campaign their networks.

Year in Review

Tournaments:

- 2017 Australia Tour, Gold Coast, AUS
- 2017 World League Prep Series, West Vancouver, CAN
- 2017 World League 2, West Vancouver, CAN

Highlights

3-1 win over 12th ranked India

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Concluding Remarks

Looking forward to the 2018 World Cup and 2020 Olympic Games, the Women's National Program will require strong leadership from Field Hockey Canada to increase revenue. In order to compete against and become a top nation in the world, more international games must be played against top-quality competition. The WNP is ambitious, full of determination and lives by the values of being PROUD, UNITED, COURAGEOUS and RELENTLESS.

Yours in sport,



Thea Culley
Athlete Director

