

Miner sophs' success leaves a lot of memories

By Bruce Smith
MatchupUT.com

Mike Johnston's introduction to the Bingham sophomore lacrosse team started with 5 a.m. practices in January.

It ended in late April in a lot brighter manner.

In-between, the Miners won 18 of 20 matches in always-changing weather conditions. They dominated most opponents and scored a lot of points. They fared well as the lone sophomore team in the (Jordan) Beetdigger Invitational and ended on a good note at a tournament in Pocatello, Idaho.

Johnston, in his first year, said he'll remember the weather conditions, but mostly how well the team did.

"I'll remember the huge dust storm we played West Jordan in. Visibility was basically terrible. And we played Brighton in a freezing cold rain. That was interesting."

But he'll recall the team's attributes much more.

"I was surprised because the size of our team was always a little bit smaller than the other teams, but our kids would just come through every time," he said.

The Beetdigger tournament came early in the season. After an exhibition game (win) against Copper Hills, the Miners beat junior varsity teams from Weber, Skyline, Alta and Spanish Fork before losing to a different Alta team.

"We had to play five games in two days," Johnston said. "That was a pretty good test for those kids. **Riley Andus** was named MVP from our team. He won a lacrosse stick."

Andus started the season well, but he got a lot of help as the season progressed. Guys like **Conner Hansen, Aaron Crane, John Madsen, Bo Jensen, Tanner Scholes, Brandon Glines, Luke Stover** and several others had high-scoring games. In the end, Bingham outscored its opponents by



Luke Stover (No. 24) and John Madsen played big roles in Bingham's success this season.

almost a 3-1 margin.

"Our main philosophy was to get ground balls, catching and passing. If you use those three things, you'll get the 'W' or the win.

"The lacrosse ball is like a million dollars. You got to get the money and take it to the bank. Our chant was to win 'Miner Money.'"

Bingham's only losses during the season came in the championship of the Beetdigger tournament, where the Miners fell to Alta's No. 1

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Riley Andus helped the Bingham sophomore team get off to a good start with his performance at the Beetdigger Tournament.

2010 Sophomore results

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>W/L</u>	<u>Score</u>
March 17	COPPER HILLS	W	11-7
March 19-20	at Beetdigger tournament		
	vs. Weber	W	6-3
	vs. Skyline	W	14-2
	vs. Alta #2	W	7-2
	vs. Spanish Fork	W	6-2
	vs. Alta #1	L	5-8
March 27	at Judge Memorial	L	5-13
March 30	at West Jordan JV	W	8-5
April 10	AMERICAN FORK	W	23-0
April 15	VIEWMONT	W	13-6
April 17	DAVIS	W	9-1
April 20	at Lehi	W	13-5
April 21	at Brighton	W	10-6
April 22	OLYMPUS	W	15-4
April 24	at Sky View	W	18-6
April 27	WEBER	W	14-4
April 28	PLEASANT GROVE	W	22-7
April 30-May 1	at Pocatello (Idaho) tournament		

Home games in CAPS

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junior varsity team. The Miners also dropped a match to Judge Memorial in the match immediately afterward.

But that was it. During the latter part of the season, the team's schedule had them playing nine matches in 12 days. Starting with those 5 a.m. practices, and all that togetherness later allowed Johnston to learn a lot about the team.

He said he was impressed with many athletes on the roster. He said **John Madsen** probably has the best chance of anyone to make the varsity roster next year. Madsen had several good games, including a four-goal performance in Bingham's win over Viewmont.

Hansen might also be a good candidate.

"He scored a ton of goals coming around the corner from the goalie's right side," Johnston said.

While Bingham's offense averaged more than 16 goals per game over the last half of the season, the defense also fared well. Johnston said he had four players there – **Cody Peterson, Nick Montgomery, Corey Johnston** and **Jeff Hunsaker** – whom he called "The Wall," and they were stingy all year.

Crane, a midfielder, showed good speed and ball control. He was also the team's best faceoff player.

In goal, the team had **James Fricke**, who had a good year that included one shutout.

Bingham finished the season with three wins at the Pocatello (Idaho) tournament. They joined the Bingham junior varsity in finishing undefeated and setting themselves up with high hopes of continuing the school's lacrosse tradition.