



The Parkland Novice Posse claimed the Greater Edmonton Lacrosse Council championship with a 5-3 win over the Beaumont Raiders on July 8.

Novice Posse down Raiders twice for GELC title

JOSH THOMAS

The Parkland Posse have set the golden standard.

Parkland's novice girls' team defeated the Beaumont Raiders in back-to-back games on July 4 and July 8 to claim the Greater Edmonton Lacrosse League title.

"It was absolutely incredible. I don't think our girls even realized what was going on until the last 10 seconds of the game and even then, there was a look of shock on their faces when they ran on to the court," said head coach Breanne Brown. "There were a few of them in tears hugging the goalie. It was highly emotional, and they deserved it."

For many of the newly crowned city champions 2019 was their first season in lacrosse. The club showed promise throughout the regular season, but not without a few expected bumps in the road.

They went 9-4-1, working hard to learn the game and their coaches systems along the way. When play-

off time rolled around, it all came together.

"We took the long road to get there. We took a few losses to start the year and through hard work and determination our girls really turned it around. It surprised us all to be honest. We were all really proud of them," said Brown.

Parkland opened the playoffs with a 7-2 victory over the Raiders on June 20, before suffering their only loss of the postseason in a 7-6 thriller against the Sherwood Park Titans on June 25.

The Posse rebounded the next night with a 5-4 victory over the St. Albert Rams, and they never looked back.

After rolling through the Edmonton Warriors 9-1, Parkland avenged their only loss of the postseason with a 6-2 win over Sherwood Park. This set them up for a back-to-back with the Raiders for the city title.

"We have beaten them previously but those were some extremely tight games. Every time

we played them it could have gone either way, but our girls found a way to win. It was exciting," said Brown.

With the win, the novice Posse become the second girls' team in Posse history to win a GELC title, just four days after the bantam girls led by head coach Christa Callahan became the first to do it.

Players are already looking forward to getting back on the court to defend their championship next season.

It took a few years for that growth to culminate in a championship, but those days are long over. Now the girls can't wait to get back onto the court.

"They were upset the season was over. We had a team of 19 and only seven of them had ever played lacrosse. This was definitely a great start to their career. I'm extremely proud of all the dedication and determination these girls put in," said Brown.

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