

Laurentians recapture provincial Challenge Cup

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The St. Lawrence Laurentians are the 2013 Provincial Challenge Cup Men's Soccer champions. It came after a four-year stranglehold by St. John's Holy Cross with the Laurentians holding the title for four years prior to that from 2005-2008.

The Laurentians took to a soggy, damp Centennial Field in their hometown Sunday afternoon against the St. John's Feildians to pull out a 2-0 victory. Striker Sean Drew scored both goals at 60 and 74 minutes while goalie John Douglas recorded the shutout.

The first half was scoreless as both teams played cautiously trying to avoid a mistake on the slippery field and in avertedly surrendering the first, and what might have been the only, goal of the game. Drew was selected the Labour Day Championship Weekend MVP.



This was the reaction of the St. Lawrence Laurentians' players Saturday afternoon after defeating Mount Pearl 4-2 in their semi-final game to advance to the Championship match against St. John's Feildians Sunday afternoon, which they also won 2-0.

Both sides avoided similar field conditions for the semi-finals when the first two games were delayed 24 hours because of heavy rain.

The Feildians knocked off the four time defending champions Holy Cross in a 1-0 decision. Kevin Connelly had the game's only goal with Michael Bartellas registering the shutout. Cross was missing the league's top scorer, Tyler Forsey, who left to fly to Germany Thursday for a tryout with a second division team there.

St. Lawrence doubled up on Mount Pearl 4-2 in the other semi. After opening up a 1-0 lead in the first half, the Laurentians fell behind 2-1 at the end of the half. But five yellow cards for Mount Pearl in the first half gave St. Lawrence an edge in the second half, and allowed the Laurentians to score three goals in the final 25 minutes to gain the win.

St. Lawrence will now represent Newfoundland and Labrador at the Canadian Challenge Cup Championships scheduled for Halifax, N.S. Thanksgiving Day weekend, Oct. 9-14.

Cup Commissioner Gord Dunphy announced league individual award winners and the all-star team for the 2013 Molson Challenge Cup season prior to the start of the championship match.

Dick Power Memorial Award MVP Regular Season: Clinton Edwards, St. Lawrence

Jim Goff Memorial Award -- Most Spirited Player: Jake Warren, Holy Cross

Jeff Babstock Award - Top Defender: Clinton Edwards, St. Lawrence

Ed Moyst Award - Rookie of the Year: Ben Collingwood, Feildians

Bobby Breen Memorial Award - First Place Regular Season: Holy Cross

Wils Molloy Golden Boot Award - Highest Goal Scorer Regular Season: Tyler Forsey, Holy Cross 31 goals

ALL-STARS

Goalkeeper: John Douglas, St. Lawrence

Fullbacks: Clinton Edwards, St. Lawrence; Jon Kelly, Mount Pearl; Chris Pope, Holy Cross and Andrew Murphy, Feildians

Midfielders: Jake Warren, Holy Cross and Pat Reddick, Holy Cross; Matthew Hamlyn, Mount Pearl and Sean Drew, St. Lawrence

Forwards: Steve DeLong, Holy Cross and Tyler Forsey, Holy Cross Kirby

Alphonse Warren Memorial Award All-Star Coach: ?Blair Aylward, St. Lawrence

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