

## **Canada's 2007 U-19 Women's Lacrosse Team Coaching Staff Announced**

March 3, 2006 - Ottawa, Ontario ... The Canadian Lacrosse Association and Women's National Team Program are very pleased to announce the appointment of the Coaching Staff to lead Canada's U-19 Women's Team into the IFWLA World U-19 Championships, being held for the first time on Canadian soil in 2007.

Jennifer Johnson, a Brooklin, Ontario native, has been selected to the position of Head Coach. A National Team veteran of over 10 years, Jen started her career as co-captain of Canada's first U-19 team in 1995, and has gone on to play on the 2001 and 2005 World Cup teams, selected as co-captain again in 2005. As a player, Johnson is known as an offensive threat. At last year's World Cup, she was selected to the All-World Team as an attacker.

Johnson graduated from Penn State in 1999. During her four years, the Littany Lions had three NCAA final 8 appearances and "JJ" led the team in scoring in her final two years. She earned First Team All-American honours in her final season and is still ranked among the top ten in career points at PSU.

Jen took on her first coaching job in 2000 as a first assistant at Cornell University under the guidance of head coach Jenny Graap. Graap felt Johnson had special intangible qualities that brought a great dynamic to the team, and gives her a great deal of credit for the team's success in the 2002 season where the Big Red made it to the NCAA final four.

Johnson transferred to the University of Connecticut for post graduate work and was the assistant coach during her two years there, graduating with a Masters of Arts in Sport Management. In 2004 she was appointed Head Coach at the University at Vermont and is now in her second season.

For all her accomplishments on the international stage, it was in the Ontario system that Johnson developed her talents. Starting out in the Whitby minor box program, she moved to field lacrosse at Anderson High School in Whitby, and played with the Senior Provincial Team for seven years, culminating with National Championship victories.

"I'm very excited to have been given the opportunity to coach Canada's U-19 Team," said Johnson. "I look forward to working with the team and the great staff that has been assembled as we prepare for the World Championships in Peterborough in the summer of 2007. I've gained so much from the Canadian lacrosse program as a player, and I believe it's my time to give back to the program. I'm eager to share my knowledge and experience with the players coming up through the system as we strive for the best results ever."

Johnson replaces Joanne Stanga as U-19 Coach. Stanga served with the U-19 program since it's inception, as Assistant coach with the '95 team, and Head coach in 1999 and 2003, leading the team to bronze at the last two World Championships.

“JJ's a natural leader, a quality that has come out in every program she's been a part of, and we think she'll be a great leader for this next generation of National Team athletes. She's got a lot of passion for the game, is an ultimate competitor, and shares the vision of our National Program with the desire of moving forward to create a new standard. It's great to see her come full circle back to place she started with Team Canada,” Joanne Stanga, CLA Director of National Team Programs, Women's Sector.

### **Assistant Coaches Named**

Along with Johnson, the assistant coaching staff has also been selected and includes Kylee Reade, Jennifer Cassidy, Lynz Keys. All Canadian U-19 alumni, Kylee was a teammate of Johnson's on Canada's first U-19 team in 1995, while Cassidy and Keys both competed on Canada's bronze medal winning U-19 team in 1999. All three coaches have also had World Cup experience with the Canadian Senior Women's Team.

Kylee Reade is in her second season as Assistant Coach at Stanford University in California, ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in NCAA Division 1 in 2005. She is a graduate of Ohio State, where she was a four year starter. After graduating, she coached at Culver Academy in Indiana for two years prior to moving on to Stanford. Kylee started playing field lacrosse in 1993 with a team in her hometown of London, Ontario. She joined the Ontario Provincial Team the next year, and contributed to three Canadian Championships as a Junior and one as a Senior. Team Canada will benefit from Reade's international experience as a tough defensive midfielder, as well as her background in ice hockey and box lacrosse.

Jen Cassidy played on Canada's 2005 World Cup team and brings world class goalkeeping expertise to the U-19 Program. From a her unique vantage point in the crease, Cassidy has developed a strong ability to analyze and break down game play. Jen graduated from Ohio University in 2004 where she was ranked as high as 11<sup>th</sup> in NCAA for save percentage. She started her lacrosse career at Henry Street High School in Whitby, Ontario, played with the Provincial Junior team winning the National Championships in her first year, 1997, and moved into a coaching position with the Provincial Team in 2004.

Lynz Keys is currently her first season as Assistant coach at Longwood University in Virginia. She graduated from Ohio University in 2004 as two-time captain for the Bobcats. She was also named to Inside Lacrosse National All-American 3rd-team as a senior. Lynz is still on the record books at Ohio U for top 10 single-game, single-season, and career goals and points. Keys is a Sinclair Secondary (Whitby, ON) graduate and like Cassidy, has moved through the Provincial Team program, with National Championships in 1996 and 97. Team Canada will benefit from Lynz' leadership in the physical and mental prep aspects of the program.

All three assistants share a great enthusiasm for the game as well as Johnson's desire to create Canada's most competitive and successful U-19 Team. The Women's National Team Program is extremely proud of all four coaches and are confident that Canada's athletes will be inspired and driven to excellence in 2007.

The coaching appointments begin immediately and will run through the end of the 2007 IFWLA World U-19 Championships. The Championships will run from August 4 – 12, 2007 at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario.

**Contact:**

Joanne Stanga

CLA Director of National Team Programs, Women's Sector

H: 905-471-7400

W: 905-787-7947

Women's National Team Program: [www.teamcanadawomenslacrosse.com](http://www.teamcanadawomenslacrosse.com)

Canadian Lacrosse Association: [www.lacrosse.ca](http://www.lacrosse.ca)

2007 Womens U19 World Lacrosse Championship: [www.2007womensu19worldlacrosse.com](http://www.2007womensu19worldlacrosse.com)

IFWLA: [www.womenslacrosse.org](http://www.womenslacrosse.org)