



## **Canadian Lacrosse Association Announces Head Coach for 2013 Senior Women's World Cup National Team**

November 30, 2011 - Ottawa, Ontario ... The Canadian Lacrosse Association is pleased to announce the selection of Alexis Venechanos as the Head Coach of Canada's 2013 Women's World Cup National Team.

Alexis brings with her an impressive list of accomplishments and knowledge of the women's game. A winner on every level, Venechanos (pronounced: ven-eh-CHAN-ohs) has been a part of four NCAA titles (as a player and coach) and a total of eight conference championships. Her infectious energy, athlete-centred approach to coaching and a genuine desire to challenge and be challenged should prove to be a winning formula for Canada's best senior women players.

Alexis is currently the Head Women's Lacrosse Coach at Ohio State University, a position she's held since July of 2010. Prior to that, as Head Coach at the University of Massachusetts, she led her team to postseason play for the first time in over 20 years in her third season and repeated in her fourth and final season there. Her coaching career started at Northwestern University where she served for three seasons as the first assistant coach and recruiting coordinator, primarily mentoring goalkeepers and defense, and helped the Wildcats to their first two of a string of consecutive national championships.

As a player, Alexis was a four-year member of the winningest women's lacrosse program of all-time at the University of Maryland, and part of two NCAA championships with the team. In her final year, she was named an All American, National Goalie of the Year, and team captain.

The Canadian Lacrosse Association Women's National Team Director, Joanne Stanga summed up the exciting future of the 2013 World Cup team under the leadership of Venechanos. "The CLA views the national team program as an investment in the development of Canadian lacrosse at all levels and in next generation national team members. With the implementation of the new national team strategy, a committed long-term investment in national team programs, and strong leadership to guide our World Cup Team, Canadians will certainly have something to share in and celebrate when all eyes are on Canada in 2013 and we proudly host and compete on home soil."

"We are pleased to have Alexis join our national team program", stated Stewart Begg, the CLA's Vice President of International Competition. "Her expertise, experience and youthful approach will be a tremendous asset to our 2013 World Cup team and the Canadian Lacrosse Association looks forward to her leadership as Head Coach."

Gary Gait, widely regarded as the best lacrosse player of all time and a five-time Team Canada member had this to say about Venechanos, "I have coached Alexis and followed her as she has transitioned from NCAA goalie of the year to becoming a head coach at the NCAA Div 1 level. She has become an exceptional coach and I am confident she will do an outstanding job with team Canada. She will continue to build on the success that the program had at the last world championship and help take it even further."

Venechanos is ready to take on the new challenge. "I am humbled and honored by this exciting opportunity to coach the Canadian National Team. There is a great amount of momentum from finishing with the bronze medal at the 2009 World Cup. The aim is to use and build upon that momentum for the upcoming games. Hosting the World Cup is going to be a great platform to showcase how much passion and excitement the Canadian lacrosse community has for the sport. Lisa Miller (2009 Head Coach) and her staff did a terrific job with the program to put the team in a great position for 2013."

The 2013 Women's World Cup will be hosted at the Oshawa Civic Centre in Oshawa, Ontario on July 11-20, 2013. The 2013 World Cup will be the first women's World Cup hosted by Canada and the second major international women's event to take place. The Canadian Lacrosse Association was the host of the 2007 Under-19 World Championship, won by the United States at Trent University in August of that year.