

CAMOSUN COLLEGE CHARGERS NEWS

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Chargers men's volleyball squad preparing now for next year's winner's circle



Team captain Garrett Marcellus (far right) rallies the troops at the 2011-12 Provincial Championships

While the Camosun College Chargers men's volleyball team finished a respectable fourth at the Provincial Championships this past season, the squad is preparing and strategizing now to return to the winner's circle in 2012-13. The addition of three Victoria standouts, combined with a solid core of experienced returnees, allows the Chargers to present a new and improved style of play next season, one rooted in power but sustained by ball control.

"As one of the biggest teams in the league, we sometimes struggled against smaller athletes who have a tendency to chip the ball off the block," comments Camosun Chargers Head Coach Charles Parkinson. "In many cases our block was just too big and high and the ball was hit underneath the outstretched arms of our blockers. This is something that just takes time to overcome and we are looking forward to being much better at this and many other aspects of the game next season."

Making an exciting return to play his fifth year of eligibility with the Chargers is team captain and #1 attacker Garrett Marcellus. An effective player both in the middle and on the wing, Garrett had a stellar year remaining in the top 15 in all statistical categories throughout the season. Garret was named PacWest Athlete of the Week in October and ended the season with a

2011-12 PacWest conference All-Star and a Tournament All-Star award at the Provincial Championships.

"It's exciting to know that Garrett will be returning next year," says Coach Parkinson. "We are extremely happy with his leadership, work ethic and the way he has matured as an athlete."

Also returning to the Chargers line-up is 6'7" middle Alex Sadowski whose exceptional performance in his first year of post-secondary competition earned him the 2011-12 PacWest Rookie of the Year award and a spot on the All-Rookie Team.

"We were pleasantly surprised with Alex," says Coach Parkinson. "His capacity to assimilate new skills and techniques into his game exceeded expectations and was reflected in his Rookie of the Year nod from the majority of coaches in the league. We look for big things from him in the seasons to come."

Next season will also feature the addition of three local Victoria rookies. Heading up the list is setter Ryan Marcellus, ranked sixth in the Province's Senior Boys Super 15 Class of 2012.

"As Team BC's gold medal starting setter at the U-17 level, Ryan has been called BC's best setter, a great leader and the heart of the Oak Bay team that won the Provincial Championships this year," comments Coach Parkinson. "The fact that Ryan will join Camosun for a chance to play with his older brother Garrett in his fifth and final year at Camosun is a really interesting and compelling story. It will be the first time the talented brothers, who are separated by five years, will play together on an indoor team."

Joining Ryan is 6'7", two-time Provincial Team athlete Lachlan Polson out of Claremont High School. Lachlan brings tremendous athleticism and versatility to the Chargers and should have an immediate impact in the PacWest. Also from Victoria is 6'4" multi-sport athlete Lucas Dellabough from Lambrick Park School. The MVP at the annual Chargers High School Tournament, Lucas is a stand out athlete in volleyball, basketball and track and field, but has elected to purse volleyball for the Chargers in his first year of post-secondary education.

While the beginning of the 2012-13 season is several months away, the Chargers are already busy planning for an action-packed summer. Chargers Assistant Coach Dave Dooley is Head Coach of the Victoria Volleyball Club 18U team that will travel to Toronto to compete in the National Championships with Chargers recruits – Ryan Marcellus and Lachlan Polson, who are key members of that team.

Camosun returnees Jeremy Finn and Ryan Thain will both be trying out for a spot on the National Team Challenge Cup (NTCC) Team that will play against other provinces and territories in Gatineau, QB while Chargers players including Denis Boyd, Jeremy Finn and Chhase McFarlen will be spending the break giving back to the community by coaching various club teams in Victoria.

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