

Controversy arises as Team White players take poll: "Let's cancel Easter!"
Family dinners don't taste as good as key opposing players miss Championship game **SPORTS E3**

The Province

KOHA
VETERAN OLD-TIMER
HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

**SUNDAY
EDITION**

WEATHER
Sunny, warm
& a good day
to be Green!

\$1.25 minimum in outlying areas
\$1.00 PLUS
GST
BUT PRICELESS!!!

SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH, 2014 | FATHER BAUER ARENA, UBC | WWW.KOHAHOCKEY.COM | A DIVISION OF ACORN PUBLISHING INC.

Green-Peat!!!

Unlikely season crowned with championship as Team Green catapults past the playoffs to emerge as 3-in-a-row kings of KOHA!



The Championship Game

Standing: (L to R) Mike Doggett, Brian Matsuo, Rob Koval, Blair Walker, AJ Vickery, John-Michael Sole, Don Furseth, Jeff Everett, Justin Turcotte, Derek Young, Rob Young - Kneeling: Bruce Sunga, Jeff Steffler, Paul Zanni, Gary Fitzgerald

Missing from photo: Paul Mitichson, Russ Vallee, Richard Bender, Darren Larter, Duddy Wijaanta

Vancouver, BC — With the final game and championship on the line, and coach Doug...

SPECIAL COLLECTORS EDITION!

...the Green squad had taken

Green-Peat!!!

Unlikely season crowned with championship as Team Green catapults past the playoffs to emerge as 3-in-a-row kings of KOHA!



The Championship Game

Standing: (L to R) Mike Doggett, Brian Matsuo, Rob Koval, Blair Walker, AJ Vickery, John-Michael Sole, Don Furseth, Jeff Everett, Justin Turcotte, Derek Young, Rob Young - Kneeling: Bruce Sunga, Jeff Steffler, Paul Zanni, Gary Fitzgerald

Missing from photo: Paul Mitichson, Russ Vallee, Richard Bender, Darren Larter, Doddy Wijanta

Vancouver, BC — With the final game and championship on the line, and coach Doggett on the bench, a rag-tag group of heroes rose from the ashes of a phoenix-like season to win it all on Sunday.

Starting the playoffs with a monster effort against perennial-powerhouse Blue, followed by a solid win against the pesky Red team, and a loss to White in a pre-final battle of 3-0 playoff teams the week following, the Green squad had taken

Green gets it done, again. 2013/2014 KOHA champs.

their playoff destiny in their own hands culminating in today’s match. White had asked for last week’s game to be the final, but our Green vote counted as we wanted our full lineup available.

The unfortunate part of Green’s victory was that White was supplemented with no less than three Green Machine players, so the victory was bittersweet as we played against our brethren. On this Easter long weekend, White had 4 or so regulars, and 3 spares, so **Don, Blair** and **Justin** went over to the white dark side. The last time Don was traded, he made us pay with a hat trick against us, so we were definitely hoping for a different result today. Trading Blair also resulted in a lot of confused looks, and Justin had been solidly contributing to the playoff drive.

This final Sunday had some twists and turns of our own. Called up from weeknights was **Derek** to replace Sunday regular **Paul Mitichson’s** offence up front, who couldn’t get away from his Deliverance weekend up in Clearwater. Another surprise was the appearance of one **Mike Doggett**, who was taking his own pre-game skate, sans pads on the early rink below, but

AJ Vickery – Nominee for “*Most Improved Player*”. Hustle, determination, and some pretty nifty dekes this year resulting in a couple of goal scoring streaks. A few also paid the price for getting in the way of the AJ train this year.

Blair Walker – **Mr. All-Canadian. “Chairman of the Boards”** on either D or forward. Inspiring work ethic, and a clutch playoffs with over a point a game (2nd on team), including 2 playoff game-winning goals in a row.

Brian Matsuo – This year added scoring from the blueline, as well as the KOHA-legal “*Matsuo-board-hip-check*” to his arsenal.

Bruce Sunga – The lethal “*Sunga-slapper*” was unleashed many times this season (at least once while whistling Dixie). The (thankfully healed) back-bone of our D-core.

Darren Larter – “*Big D*”. A wall on weeknight D for us. Shutting down opposition with his big frame and a goal-scoring streak this year with his big shot.

told reporters in the ensuing scrum that he was still a no-go while still healing the full tear in his rotator cuff, but almost brought a suit and tie to stand on the bench as “coach” Doggett. And the most surprising storyline, was the return of **Bruce Sunga**, who was given enough of a green-light to play after his scary (post-VGH) back incident of just 2 weeks prior and literally being dragged off the ice. Great to see you back Bruce.

The game started a little more sleepy than I think we would have liked. We didn’t seem to get many breaks at all, as the game was choppy and didn’t have a lot of flow. I caused a terrible goal with a big piece of confusion between me and **Rob Koval**, giving Rick Malone a yawning cage to open their scoring.

Derek opened our scoring on a great power-move off the right faceoff circle from a Sunga-slapper rebound to backhand deke a goal past the White keeper Nick.

Paul Zanni, Gary and **John** played hard up front were eventually rewarded as John deposited a nice crease passing play from behind the net. Paul got a similar goal from just a few feet from that same play to shoot blocker high-side to

dominating offensive & defensive shifts. **Difference maker.**

John-Michael Sole – Nominee for “*Rookie of the Year*”. Great addition to Green from scout Koval. Hard work, great skater, excellent contributions for his first year back in hockey in a while.

Justin Turcotte – Solid skating spare for Green also from the Koval scouting pool. Scored a key goal in the playoffs to keep the Green dream alive.

Mike Doggett – 7th in league scoring despite missing over 30 games. Makes everyone around him better. **Mr. MVP. ‘Nuff said.** (And candidate for *Coach of the Year* for his bench appearance)

Paul Mitchison – The “*Big-man*”. Also nominee for “*Rookie of the Year*”. Deadly shot off the wing. Strong skating and positional play all season. Recovered from tinnitus (otherwise known as “post-itus”) that broke his scoring streak.

Paul Zanni – **Mr. Calvary** and the **Coupe-De-Grace** with his potent and driving offence. Resumed his

get us 3 on the board.

White battled hard, but Koval played great to keep us in it, Mike’s coaching steadied our course as I contemplated juggling the lines. But White’s jumbled lineup only had a few regulars, and we focused on not leaving Malone alone, but they got a couple more to keep it close until **AJ**, Derek and myself got one as we had a nice bang-bang play as we gained the zone, AJ took my pass at the blueline and fired a shot, which rebounded back to me, and I charged forward to meet a charging goalie, but I zipped a pass past him to Derek in the slot who scored his second of the game. White pulled the goalie, but we worked hard in the defensive zone, with Paul winning the draw, and all Greens collapsed hard in our zone, and eventually **Jeff Steffler** gingerly skated it out of harms way and deked a few bodies out to seal the deal into the empty net on a buzzer beater and immediately the game was whistled over. **Green wins 5-3!**

Thanks for a great season guys, both Sunday’s and weeknights, you were a tremendous bunch of guys to play with, and for myself made this one of the most enjoyable ever. – **Rob Y.**

instant chemistry with Gary as the top KOHA deadly-duo after his late (Xmas) start to the season.

Richard Bender – Also a nominee “*Most Improved Player*”. Awarded in camp “In Best Shape”. His rebound summer bounced him out quite early this season with injury.

Rob Koval – The “*Ranford-esque*” catching glove was spectacular all year. Came up big when the games called for it. Great season.

Rob Young – Happy to be part of the “*Miracle on ice*”.

Russ Vallee – Last year co-captain of Green made a late season debut with solid shutdown D.

Special Mention* Tara Stephens – **Off-ice Green MVP.** Our valuable score-keeper. We all thank you very much for coming out this year. You were missed when you weren’t there.

Honorable mention: Spares Al Hattori, Mike St. Pierre, Cam Andrews. Also Bill Chen, Scott Tyldesley and Ted Nitta (and friends) for their cross-KOHA contributions this year.