



The Excel Transport Bandits came back in overtime to beat the Cap Abilities Oldstylers 13-12 on Wednesday night. JOHN MCKENZIE/FREE PRESS

## Bandit's return

*Brent Williams is hoping for a double championship*

After winning the BCHL league championship and playing in the western finals, a stab at the local senior lacrosse title may seem like small potatoes — but don't tell that to Brent Williams.

The PG Minor Hockey product who jumped ship from the Spruce Kings to the Victoria Salsa early last season has come home and hitched his star to a different local team — the Excel Bandits, defending playoff champs of the PG Senior Lacrosse League.

"It is very cool. It's always nice to come back to Prince George and play somewhere where my friends and family can all come watch," says the 20-year-old Williams.

So far Williams has only played one game with the Bandits, and he admits he was a bit rusty after a two-year layoff from the sport of

lacrosse.

"I was rusty for sure, but it came back to me pretty fast." It was a trial-by-fire for the former senior player. With only nine players on the bench he had more game time than he would ice-time. But Williams says he won't likely play every game with the Bandits. He works in the evenings and the plan for now is to squeeze in the three games he needs to qualify for the playoffs.

Brent was a scoring force on the ice for the Salsa during playoffs, earning himself a full-ride scholarship to Iona College in New York.

The Bandits themselves are looking to defend their first-ever league title, and they seem to be going about it the same way the did last season.

"We started off slow last season, just like this one,"

says team captain Brett Doig. "Then we poured it on at the end."

Doig is counting on players like Williams, along with leading scorers Jeff Moleski and Mike Engbrecht to pull the Bandits out of their early-season slump in time for another successful playoff run. Often early in the year players aren't as committed or busy with work. But by the end everyone is on the same page. But already the Bandits seem to be back on the way up with a come-from-behind victory over the second-place Cap Abilities Oldstylers during the week.

"The first half of the season everyone is gaining experience with the systems and by the end of the year it comes together," he says. "We definitely want to win it again. It would be nice to have a little Bandits dynasty going."



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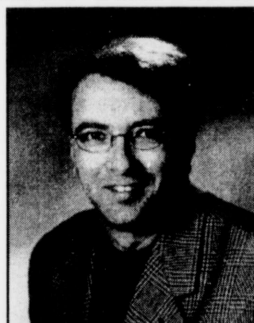
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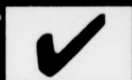
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