

Lady Redbirds take to Lacrosse's biggest stage

By Jake Courtepatte

The Lady Redbirds may be used to playing their games outside on a field, but for just one night they settled for box lacrosse: at the Air Canada Centre, no less.

Almost thirty players and four coaches had the opportunity to take to the floor during halftime of a game last week between the NLL's Toronto Rock and Calgary Roughnecks, an opportunity to scrimmage usually reserved to showcase boy's box lacrosse. But when Dawn Beal-Nacevski, director of the Lady Redbirds program, had her son play in one of the scrimmages, she saw her chance.

"I met Kyle Davis from the Toronto Rock when my son played in one of those scrimmages and asked if he'd ever thought about showcasing girls lax at a Toronto Rock game," said Beal-Nacevski. "He thought it was a great idea - the wheels were set in motion."

Beal-Nacevski said there was an "overwhelming response" when she asked her athletes, and though they were initially scheduled to scrimmage against the Oakville Lady Hawks, it "became apparent (they) needed their own evening."

It also happened to be "Boots and Hearts" night at the game, featuring country artist Tebey, with the Redbirds arriving in style sporting cowgirl hats.

Official tryouts begin on April 3. More information can be found on the program's website, www.redbirdslax.com, or by emailing dawnbealnacevski@gmail.com.