



Lacrosse landed in Finland 2001, when Finnish Lacrosse Association started its activity.

The association was founded to develop the sport in Finland and to manage international connections. A year later the first Finnish team "Helsinki Lacrosse Club" was founded in Helsinki.

Turku Titans found the first youth team in the spring of 2007 for boys with age from 13 to 17 years. Finland's 2008 U-19 team was picked from almost 40 youths from Finland, and is strengthened by a couple of Finnish passport holders from US.

The spirit among the team is high and the players are eager to test their skills against international competition.

Finnish Lacrosse Association emphasizes the growth of Finland's youth program and is applying to host the 2012 World Junior Championships at Turku.



#1
Mikael Lindqvist
Midfield
Height: 175 cm
Weight: 75 kg
Helsinki Chiefs



#4
Jussi Lilja
Defence
Height: 185 cm
Weight: 80 kg
Helsinki Coyotes



#5
Joonas Niemi
Midfield
Height: 179 cm
Weight: 82 kg
Turku Titans



#6
Sami Saloheimo
Midfield
Height: 180 cm
Weight: 68 kg
Teholax Jyväskylä



#9
Niko Aho
Midfield
Height: 177 cm
Weight: 75 kg
Turku Titans



#10
Kristoffer Blom
Attack
Height: 170 cm
Weight: 72 kg
Turku Titans



#11
Derek Rafeldt
Midfield
Height: 183 cm
Weight: 80 kg
Norwich Free Academy (USA)



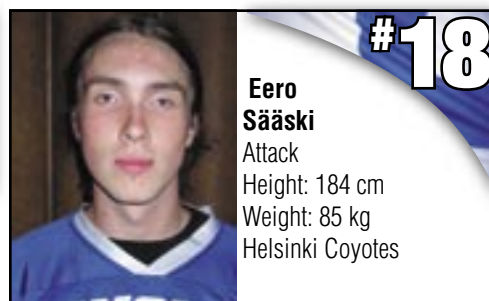
#12
John Snellman
Attack
Height: 188 cm
Weight: 100 kg
Salisbury School (USA)



#15
Kimmo Käpynen
Midfield
Height: 178 cm
Weight: 85 kg
Lempäälän Toivo



#16
Jani Viitanen
Defence
Height: 179 cm
Weight: 80 kg
Vaasa Wishpooshs



#18
Eero Sääski
Attack
Height: 184 cm
Weight: 85 kg
Helsinki Coyotes



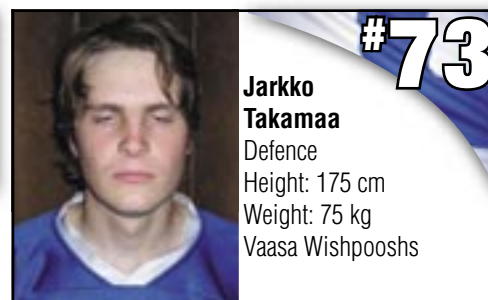
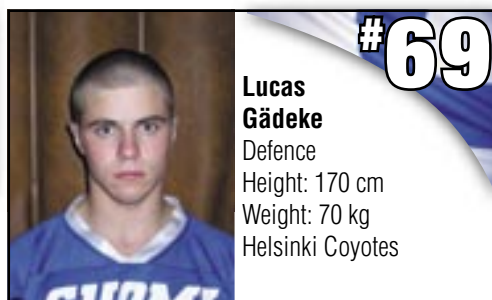
#19
Mikko Varjo
Defence
Height: 187 cm
Weight: 90 kg
Turku Titans



#21
Antti Kulpakko
Midfield
Height: 190 cm
Weight: 88 kg
Helsinki Chiefs



#22
Arto Tähtinen
Attack
Height: 180 cm
Weight: 68 kg
Helsinki Coyotes



Risto Worthington
Head Coach



Griff Barhight
Coach



David Huoppi
Coach



Matti Tähkää
General Manager

Team Finland will be playing in their first ever U19 World Lacrosse Championships. The project that started in 2006 after the Men's World Championships has been very interesting. The junior national team was proud to announce men's national team star player Risto Worthington as the new head coach. The rest of the coaching staff was built around him and the most recent addition was David Huoppi, also a member of the men's national team. Combining strong Finnish heritage, coaching experience, and great spirit and motivation, the coaching staff of Worthington, Griff Barhight and Huoppi, will lead Finland to surprise many lacrosse enthusiasts, again.

The Finnish squad is a great combination of fast legs and physical play. The hockey background, that many players have, ensures that the Finnish defense will be all over their opponents. The famous Finnish SISU will help the Finns fight hard at the both ends of the field. The players to watch from the Finnish team are defenseman Mikko Varjo and attacker John Snellman, who both will also be playing for Team Finland at the Men's European Lacrosse Championships in Lahti, Finland in August of 2008.



Lassi Aalto
Trainer



Jorma Mäkilä
Trainer



Mikko Tähkää
Physio

