

EDMONTON *hockey*

SPRING 2017

2017 YEARBOOK EDITION

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Winning Teams from
2017 QUIKCARD EDMONTON
MINOR HOCKEY WEEK



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Featured On The Cover: Nolan Bisson



Age: 8
School Grade: 3
Current Team: Confed Thunder
Usual Position: Forward
Favourite Hockey Team: Chicago Blackhawks
Favourite Hockey Player: Patrick Kane
Who is your Role Model: My Dad
Other Hobbies / Interests: Art & Triathlon
Favourite Hockey Memory: Building my outdoor rink and skating

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Hockey Edmonton would like to say thank you to ENMAX for all you do to help us make every season a great one!



Good Luck in the 2017 ENMAX Hockey Edmonton Championships!





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Message From Hockey Edmonton

It's hard to believe that our 2016-17 hockey season is drawing to a close. We hope you experienced a great season and have made many memories. To those just starting out we hope you've learned something new, a new skill or two and a passion for the sport.

This year has seen many changes, new Hockey Edmonton staff, a new initiation program and the many development sessions conducted by HE. You may ask why the increased emphasis placed on development. Two reasons. Everyone of our registered players deserves the opportunity to develop the skills they need to pursue their sporting dreams. Additionally, the lack of players interested and capable of playing at the elite level has been decreasing, thus putting our clubs in a very challenging position.

About 10 years ago Hockey Canada introduced long term athlete development also known as long term player development. At the time it wasn't well received by Canadian minor hockey associations. Many associations chose to ignore it. The research and countless hours of developing the program soon sat on the shelf. There was one organization that was keenly interested in the program and that was Hockey USA. Many U.S. minor hockey associations adopted the program, some totally embraced it from initiation on up. It recommends the split ice practice, more development than games, promoting fun while developing individual skills and personal development of both mind and body of the athlete.

In Edmonton a gentleman, Ryne Munsterman, who I have great respect for, shared with coaches when LTPD was first introduced that if we didn't adopt this program we would eventually be watching Hockey USA in our lunchroom eating our lunch. Well, we are starting to see this happen on the international stage, the World Juniors this year was a good example. At one time when U.S. teams came to a Canadian tournament we would step back and comment on how weak they were. We now go up against their teams and they have become a formidable opponent. So we as Hockey Edmonton have embraced the LTPD. We've started in initiation and we want to develop the skills of as many players as we can, not just a select few. This is why development is on the top of our "to do" list and will remain so for years to come. Question your associations about their development plan from initiation on up, I know they would be happy to share it.

On behalf of the board of directors we want to thank those volunteer coaches who share our vision and work with our players to assist them in reaching their dreams whether it's in the sport of hockey or life in general.

We want to thank those who work behind the scenes from registrars to our league governors to our ice management committee, hockey in Edmonton wouldn't happen without you. While players, parents and coaches end the year, our administrative volunteers and staff are already working on the 2017-18 season. We wish you all continued success as we approach the end of the hockey season.



Sincerely,

Mark Doram

President, Hockey Edmonton

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Message From The Publisher

Welcome to our final edition of the Hockey Edmonton Magazine for the 2016-2017 season.

This is our Yearbook Edition of the magazine, which features the gold medal winning teams from 2017 Quikcard Edmonton Minor Hockey Week. Additionally, we have included a number of "spotlights" of players who won gold medals during this event.

And in the centrefold we have included a montage of photos taken during Quikcard Edmonton Minor Hockey Week. Thanks to Ian Jackson and the great group of photographers at Epic Photography for supplying these photos.

We have also included some great photos taken at the Hometown Hockey event which took place in early February. We met up with Hometown Hockey host Ron MacLean, who chatted with us about Hockey Night in Canada, Hockey Day in Canada, and Coach's Corner. So yes, we asked him a few questions about Don Cherry and NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, too.

One of the mainstays in our magazine is the "Spotlight on an Official" feature, where we interview a young minor hockey official. For this edition, we met up with 22-year-old Cassandra Gregory, who has been officiating minor hockey since she was 13 years old.

We also have a feature interview with the NHL's top-rated referee, Wes McCauley, who was in Edmonton recently to call an Oilers game. McCauley recently became a bit of an internet sensation with his "fighting" call at a Habs - Bruins game in mid-February.

Wrapping up this final edition of the magazine, we have an article on rink attendants, the oft overlooked folks who look after our city arenas, making sure the ice is in tip top shape for all game participants.

That's all for this issue. With the hockey season winding down, we would like to wish all the participants a great off-season, and look forward to seeing everyone back on the ice in a few short months!



Sincerely,

Rob Suggitt

Publisher of the
Hockey Edmonton Magazine



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OILERS HELPING TO GROW THE GAME IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

By Kristen McWatters // Photos Provided by Dan Riedlhuber & Marko Ditkun - OEG

For many of Alberta's youth, learning the game of hockey is a Saturday night pastime. A Battle of Alberta game on TV. Watching Connor McDavid skate, deke and score on the opposing team.

Dreaming of the thrill of scoring their own goals or maybe even the day they can suit up for a game wearing their own Edmonton Oilers jersey.

The Edmonton Oilers want to help youth work towards their dreams. Through various grassroots programs, the Oilers are working to deliver and develop youth hockey programs that focus on the key aspects of the game while providing a fun and focused environment for learning.

The Edmonton Oilers Hockey School is a great example of this programming. Operating in partnership with the Okanagan Hockey Group since 2008, Oilers Hockey School is a week long day camp for hockey players aged five to 15 years old. Running throughout July and August, its focus is to provide a safe and fun environment for kids to learn and develop their hockey skills. While attendees can expect professional and experienced instructors to lead them through on and off-ice sessions, they also get the opportunity to interact with Edmonton Oilers alumni in the form of both former players and coaches. On-ice sessions teach youth about the important elements of the game, while off-ice sessions teach them about balance and the work that occurs behind the scenes in terms of nutrition, developing a healthy body and mind, and preparing oneself for competition. Oilers Hockey School runs for four weeks out of St. Albert and Leduc.

Modelling itself off of Oilers Hockey School, each season the Edmonton Oilers run the Oilers Hockey Clinic in one lucky northern Alberta community. In partnership with ATCO, this clinic is offered at no cost to its participants and provides an opportunity to expand the skills and development of approximately 100 local youth. In one weekend, participants are put through a condensed version of hockey school. With on and off-ice sessions, led by experienced Hockey



Canada and Hockey Alberta instructors, kids can expect an intense but fun weekend. In addition to developing youth in Oil Country, local minor hockey coaches are asked to volunteer with the event. These coaches work alongside the instructors to learn new drills and further develop their coaching abilities. Coaches and athletes walk out of a weekend at Oilers Hockey Clinic with the knowledge and skills to continue to grow their game!

Hockey programming across North America has consistently focused on developing the skills of minor hockey players currently in the system. In recent years, the National Hockey League began to look beyond current players and endeavoured to help expose new youth to the game through local Learn to Play initiatives.

Lil' Oilers, the Edmonton Oilers local initiative, was launched in October 2016 to much fanfare. Providing youth aged five to six with an introduction to the game of hockey, Lil' Oilers works towards breaking down the barriers of sport participation.



Youth selected for the program are brand new to the game of hockey. Participants pay a small fee for the program, but the fee is rolled over towards minor hockey registration in the next season. Before participants even hit the ice, they receive free head-to-toe equipment from CCM.

Instructors, including Oilers alumni, Hockey Edmonton and Hockey Alberta development coordinators, run participants through seven weeks of the fundamentals of hockey. Support for the instructors is provided by various local minor hockey association coaches, representing initiation programs across the greater Edmonton area. They work closely with the program instructors who teach the coaches how to run effective on-ice programs for five to six-year-olds, an adventure on its own! This mentorship helps coaches start their coaching journeys off on a positive foot. Participants leave the Lil' Oilers program ready to register in their local minor hockey association and potentially having met one of their future coaches.

As young athletes make their way through the hockey system, some become more motivated and determined to reach for the top of the hockey world. To meet the needs of these athletes, the Edmonton Oilers have launched the Oilers Hockey Institute.

This program will focus on skill development for the committed athlete. Participants will be led through high-level training in both on-ice and off-ice sessions, with all sessions focusing on achieving the athletes best in a supportive, educational environment.

Experienced instructors will include former university, major junior and professional hockey players. Participants are expected to work hard in every session, being motivated to continue to outdo their previous bests and develop the skills they need to achieve their goals. Oilers Hockey Institute will focus on bringing an overall environment of excellence to the training needs of northern Alberta hockey players. In its first season, Oilers Hockey Institute will focus on athletes in the peewee category but will expand its programming in years to come.

While the Edmonton Oilers continue to pursue excellence on ice at the NHL level, off the ice they are working hard to deliver and develop programming that supports the betterment of young athletes across the province. As youth continue to be thrilled by the excitement of hockey on their televisions or at the rink, the Edmonton Oilers strive to help find a place for them in this great game and continue to grow hockey in northern Alberta and across Canada.



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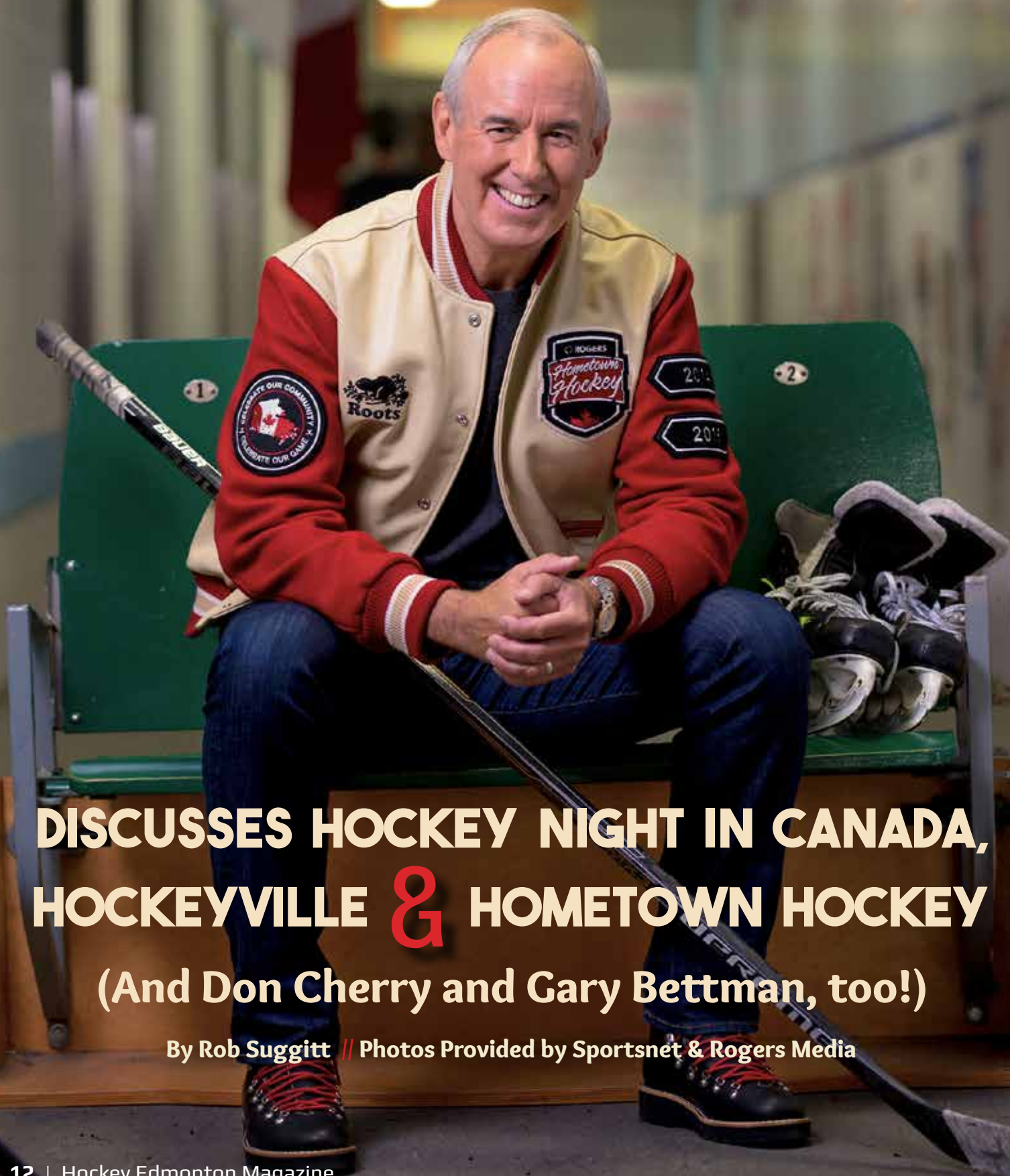
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Churchill Square - February 4th & 5th

Photographs Provided by Avonlea Photography



RON MACLEAN



**DISCUSSES HOCKEY NIGHT IN CANADA,
HOCKEYVILLE & HOMETOWN HOCKEY
(And Don Cherry and Gary Bettman, too!)**

By Rob Suggitt // Photos Provided by Sportsnet & Rogers Media

“

I was sitting at the desk of Hockey Night in Canada alone before the Leafs game one Saturday night, and in comes this kid. He looked eighteen years old, and I've never heard of him. (By the end of segment), he had tears in his eyes. I thought "Oh boy, this is going to be fun."

-Don Cherry on his first episode of Coach's Corner with Ron MacLean

”

That was 30 years ago. MacLean was 26 years old at the time, and Don Cherry was 52. As for MacLean's tears, they came later, on set and during the broadcast. No, Cherry did not make Ron MacLean cry. The HNIC producer at the time, Doug Sellars, gave MacLean some advice before he went on air, telling him that his eyes tended to wander. So fixated on this advice, MacLean tried not to blink during the episode. By the end of the segment, a tear rolled down MacLean's cheek, and he could read Don's eyes. "Good God, is this kid crying?"

To be in this business nearly 30 years (and essentially with the same employer), a person has to have loyalty and thick skin. MacLean has both, and learned a bit about both early in life. One moment sticks out, as he remembers his mother standing up for herself at work, and to make her point, quitting her job. The temporary satisfaction and release of quitting her job soon changed when the reality that while she made her point, she was out of work.

Interestingly and perhaps coincidentally, Ron MacLean got his job on Coach's Corner due to a similar outburst of employee frustration. It was March 14, 1987, and Dave Hodge, who carried the dual roles of being host of HNIC and host of Coach's Corner, was calling the semi-final of the Brier. The game went to extra ends, but in CBC's infinite wisdom, they went with regularly scheduled events, so fans watching the Brier got an episode of Star Trek instead. Later that night, Hodge (still steaming) was hosting HNIC, and with the game headed to overtime, the network decided to leave the game and go to the news which was scheduled to start at 11 p.m. Off air, Hodge tried to plead his case, but to no avail. So first, the Brier, then an exciting NHL game abandoned in overtime, leaving millions of fans in the lurch.

At 10:59 p.m., Hodge had to explain this to viewers, and here's what he said. "Now, Montreal and the Philadelphia Flyers are currently playing overtime, and (pause), are we able to go there or not? (Someone speaks in his earpiece.) We are not able to go there. That's the way things go today in sports, and this network. The Flyers and Canadiens have us in suspense, and we'll remain that way until we can find out somehow who won this game... or who's responsible for the way we do things here. Good night for Hockey Night in Canada." He flipped his pencil in the air, and walked off. For good.

MacLean has been through a variety of changes and bosses over the years, and has certainly dealt with frustrations or many unpopular decisions along the way, but he has stuck it out. He has remained loyal to the network, and it would be fair to ask if the network has reciprocated the same level of loyalty. But more on that later.

Two apparent adversaries have remained over MacLean's many years as host of HNIC. Don Cherry appears as one who he shares an acrimonious relationship, but people should really know that despite their on-air spats or disagreements, the two remain close. They usually have a few "pops" after the show when they're travelling on the road together - in either one of their hotel rooms after the game. (A trash can with ice to keep the beers cold.) It's interesting to note that on Twitter, Don Cherry has nearly a million followers, but follows just one person. That's Ron MacLean.

No similar harmony exists with MacLean's other longtime adversary Gary Bettman. Their interviews often appear tense, confrontational, and contentious, with Bettman coming away looking uneasy and defensive under the relentless interrogation by MacLean, all which make for good viewing.

MacLean wrote in his book "Cornered" that his mom did not like watching his segments with Gary Bettman, commenting, "Either turn it down or I'll just go down to the bedroom. I'm not going to watch. I can't watch." As MacLean explained in his book, "Mom was scared that Gary could have me removed from the job - not fired from HNIC, but from being the host. Dad would try to reassure her 'I don't think that's right. I don't think he can do that, because Ronnie's not working for Gary Bettman, he's working for CBC. And Gary Bettman does not run the CBC.'"

On June 2, 2010, MacLean and Bettman had a memorable segment with MacLean pushing Bettman hard on franchise values and stability. You know Bettman is getting defensive and feeling the heat when he says, "Ron, Ron, Ron," and deflects, "We've had a great season, hockey has been terrific, these playoffs are great, we're watching a wonderful game, and you want to tick off franchise after franchise. What inside of you compels you to want to go in that direction?"

The interview finished up, but it was clear MacLean struck a nerve without really getting his questions answered. (And you can be sure that MacLean and Bettman didn't go for a few "pops" afterwards.)

MacLean was confronted about the Bettman interview the very next day by Scott Moore, the executive director of CBC Sports, to say they needed to become better partners with our corporate sponsors and the sports leagues. Moore stated that "if you continue to badger our partners this way, we are all going to be out of a job in four years."

Fast forward four years (Nov, 2013) and Rogers strikes a 12-year \$5.2 billion deal with the NHL for national broadcast rights in Canada, which includes the Hockey Night in Canada property. That's a lot of money.

A few months later, on March 10, 2014, George Stroumboulopoulos is brought in to replace Ron MacLean as the main host of Hockey Night in Canada. MacLean keeps his role on Coach's Corner and host of Hockey Day in Canada, but the message is clear. MacLean is pushed aside, and Rogers thinks the younger hipper host ("Strombo" is 12 years MacLean's junior) will help attract a younger viewership.

To some, the foreshadowing was prescient when he showed his dissent with the league commissioner. When asked about this by the Globe & Mail in October 2014, MacLean said, "Maybe that hurt me but I would gladly fall on my sword for that principle. But I don't know that it had anything to do with [a reduced role]. It could have."

Meanwhile, Strombo (as he's called) struggled to connect with hockey viewers the way only Ron MacLean could, and with suffered ratings, Sportsnet announced on June 27, 2016 that Stroumboulopoulos was let go from Rogers, and that Ron MacLean would be reinstated as host of Hockey Night in Canada.

Does it seem like 28 years ago since you got started on Hockey Night in Canada?

No – it's stunning to me. For Don Cherry, one of the big songs in his life was "You've blown it all Sky High" by Jigsaw, which is now 42 years old. Really? It's staggering. Same when I play beer league hockey, and we shake hands (after the game), and we're all grey-haired guys. When I started, I was 26 and Don was 52. And now I'm 56.

How did Hockey Day in Canada get started?

It was John Shannon – definitely his brainchild. He was the producer for HNIC – he was actually the guy that hired me out of Red Deer, Alberta. John was really a firm believer – and I think it all stemmed from the way John produced, to expand perimeters. He would always drive, if he could, from one city to the next, and he would stop at some historical spot along the way. I can remember doing a doubleheader for Hartford and Boston and we would stop at Longfellows Wayside Inn, wherever that is. He just wanted to learn about the history around our stops, so I think he very much understood what General Walter Natyncyk said, 'The further you are from the sound of the guns, the less you understand.' He knew we had to take this show, and get it out of the ivory tower of the CBC building in Toronto, and put it into Canada, the outreach parts of Canada.

In keeping with this theme, I understand Bob Cole (who's from Newfoundland) flies in from St. John's to call games.

For sure, and the problem for Bob is that St. John's has crazy weather. It can be fog, high winds – there's a lot of things which can ground the airplanes, so Bob has to leave on Thursday to be sure he's there for a Saturday night assignment. Knock on wood – (he's never missed a game), but he's flirting with disaster.

We did the show in Grand Falls-Windsor, Newfoundland. It was a Sunday morning flight to Halifax, then to St. John's, then to Gander, and a 90-minute drive. We did it early enough in the year so we wouldn't have to battle old man winter.

Are you a good traveller?

I am. I definitely find it a peaceful thing to be on an airplane, good to collect thoughts, do some research. And if I have a late night, I can catch up sleep on the plane. So, no, I don't mind the travel at all.

And you do it 24-25 weeks in a row over a hockey season. Do you get a break after the hockey season?

Last summer with the Rio Olympics and the Calgary Stampede, and the World Cup of Hockey, there wasn't really a chance to recharge. And I know that Jennifer Botterill's father Cal is a

“

[*Hometown Hockey*] is a labour of love. It's a show that you feel like you're making a difference in people's lives. It really is. So when we get to march in with all the kids from minor hockey on Sunday morning, you'll know why it's a show which is so close and dear to my heart.

”

great sports psychologist, and he's a big believer in that recharging. It's something you need to be aware of. I still play beer league hockey, go to the gym, things I need to do to keep my energy. Because time and energy...you know how you always hear time and space in hockey is the thing...well, for us and work, it's time and energy.

How about this summer – will you have a chance to recharge?

Yes (he says with some anticipation), it all seems to come in surges, Rob. I cannot believe the next winter Olympics are a year away. The only thing which is frustrating, and we're waiting for the decision from the NHL, is whether they're playing or not. If they don't go, I'll probably stay here, and just think about Hockey Night in Canada.

How would you describe your relationship with Gary Bettman? You seem to butt heads?

You know, I tell Gary – my questions sound pro player, but it has to be because he's representing the owners. He's in management, so I have to kind of get the other side of it. And I know it's frustrating for him, and I think it's frustrating for some of the owners to see their agent, their representative taken to task.

Tell hockey fans a positive thing about Gary Bettman.

I always tell some of my beer league hockey players. Rod Fehr, the head of the players' association – and he may kill me for saying this – says he enjoys working with Gary far greater than, say, when he enjoyed working with Bud Selig. He found Bud Selig much more difficult to work with than he's found Gary, so there's one thing, which sounds great for player/management relations. (Which usually means fewer work stoppages.)

I just think he's extremely well-schooled in his lawyering, and as a result, every word is extremely meaningful to Gary. Where I may be a bit flip in my language, he is not. That's what sometimes makes him seem cold or distant, that he is searching for the exact word, because he thinks of the legal repercussions. It may not be warm and fuzzy, the way we talk, I think that leads to some of the perception that he's cold or indifferent. But he's not. All of his employees, people he works with, they're very quick to mention his loyalty, his warmth. It's just he really struggles when he's on television, to be able to feel free, because he's aware of the consequences of using the wrong word.

Which does not endear him to hockey fans – right?

No, but it's an unfair expectation. As I've said, I've tried many ways – I don't want to just be a company man. I've always said, I work for the viewer, the reader, the listener. I don't work for Rogers per se. They certainly pay the bills, but to truly do our job, we have to do it for the right reasons. That means people in authority are going to have their feet held to the fire. I don't enjoy it, in a sense, because I know what it's like to be in the crosshairs. I know what's is like to have an expectation placed upon you – it's like having shackles. So it's not easy for Gary,

and it's not easy for a Don Fehr, or it's not easy for a Stephane Quintal (senior VP of player safety), everyone who has that level of responsibility or power.

How did Hometown Hockey start? Was it a spin-off of Kraft Hockeyville?

The better analogy, Rob, would be Scotiabank Hockey Day in Canada, a grassroots initiative which started in 2000. It was Hockey Night In Canada's idea – once a year to celebrate the game, to do a 13-hour marathon broadcast with about four to five hours of grassroots stories, about minor hockey, just all the different ways we come to hockey, whether it's female hockey, sledge hockey, hockey for those with disabilities. We wanted to really showcase the game in all its different ways and formats. And that is where Hometown Hockey came along.

What about Edmonton is special for you?

I lived in Edmonton in the mid-70's, I attended St. Gregory School in McQueen, and I played outdoor hockey at McQueen. I remember playing games all around that area, and I remember I had a 5-goal game, in a game we won 5-2. I never scored goals, but I got five that game for some crazy reason. It was a covered rink, but not artificial ice. I just remember how much I loved the game, and Hockey Night in Canada. I'd watch the Bugs Bunny Road Runner show at 5, pick up my supply of snacks for my show at six.

My love of curling and hockey was really built by the Edmonton sports community and sports people, guys like Al McCann, Ernie Afaganis, John Wells, Bryan Hall, Wes Montgomery, and Tiger Goldstick to name a few. And now people will listen to Gene Principe, Kevin Quinn and so on, guys I looked up to for their ethics, as much as their love of sport.

Who's better with the puns – you or Gene Principe?

(Laughs) I'd say we're even – how's that? I've always said that it's bumper sticker humour, and I don't know why Gene got the sickness. (Laughing.)

Maybe it runs in his genes?

(Laughs)

What does Don Cherry think of your puns?

Don never so much as chuckled at my puns, but one time he couldn't help himself. He laughed out loud. It was the stupidest thing, too. He was talking about how funny it was to see Mike Keenan wearing glasses, and I said, 'I thought you liked coaches who make spectacles of themselves.'

Don Cherry – does he pay attention to twitter?

Yeah sure – he just wants to make sure he can correct me on Saturday night. (Laughs) He's kinda like a columnist who observes for a day or two, and comes in with his machete, and sorts things out. I don't even think Don knows what twitter is (laughing) to be honest with you. But they are his posts – he makes his own posts.

What do you respect most about Don Cherry?

That's a good one. I just think the Don I know...he's a rock star in all cities all over North America, or even in Sochi, (or) all the places we've had the Olympics, Nagano, just his consistency, his relentless preparation, he's studied his whole life. He overthinks and I really respect that. We all understand and know we need to let go in certain aspects to our lives, but to really be good in this industry, you need to be relentless. And Don is absolutely relentless.

When Don's done, are you done?

No, I don't think so. That's where Rogers Hometown Hockey has been a great blessing in my life. I think Tara Sloan and I are doing a show which has extreme importance. Saturday night's obviously the biggest night, but Sunday nights are the most important night. I think we realize we need to be the prism to see all the different ways the game is played, and all the different backgrounds, all the people who play. I think we're really carving a niche that's extremely important. That might morph into something outside of hockey.



When all seven Canadian NHL teams missed the playoffs, what was your observation of the mood across the country?

It's like Tiger Woods or New England Patriots. Everyone loved Tiger Woods in his heyday. Everyone likes to see excellence. Nothing draws a crowd like excellence. So to have that atmosphere of a playoff game – people do enjoy when the pressure is ratcheted up. It's great for us to have that. (Pauses and thinks) But you can't just love it when it's good. Erich Fromm said, 'If I am what I have, and if I lose what I have who then am I?' (Ron said it differently "If I am what I have, then I lose what I have, what am I?')

So if you're a hockey fan, I think the Leafs fans, the Chicago Cubs fans, they're probably the greatest fans, because they've done it without that (winning).

And how about Edmonton Oilers fans?

Lately (it's been tough for Oilers fans.) And you were spoiled. For me, a child of the 80's, to have this rut is very difficult, but at least the Eks have had a couple of moments. In 2006, the run for Edmonton was spectacular, but you're right, you have to be (good loyal fans), and I think Edmonton fans are that for sure.

In finishing up, I have to say it's a treat watching you on Hockey Night in Canada on Saturday, and Hometown Hockey on Sunday – you're a national treasure.

I really appreciate that, Rob. The first one is what it is. It's like being able to play for the Oilers. The second one is a labour of love. It's a show that you feel like you're making a difference in people's lives. It really is. So when we get to march in with all the kids from minor hockey on Sunday morning, you'll know why it's a show which is so close and dear to my heart.

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THERE IS AN “ I ” IN TEAM

By Steffany Hanlen ©2017

The intention behind the slogan “There is no “I” in Team” is a positive one, as it serves to put emphasis on the need to look out for one another. John Wooden’s words, “It’s amazing how much can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit,” confirm this.

It is equally true that a successful team is made up of strong, focused INDIVIDUALS committed to a singular purpose. So there is an “I” in team... there has to be.

Strong teams are made up of players, parents, coaches and advisors working together towards a common goal. The goal might be as simple as WINNING, or as complex as using the values of sport to enrich and inspire people to succeed in life, or a combination of the two.

Is there room in our “team” game for individual goals? Is it possible to have a “WE” environment that accommodates the needs and desires of each “ME”?

We laud team spirit and putting others first, yet at the same time we clap for “game stars” and keep (and compare) individual statistics. We say it’s all about the logo on the front of the jersey and not the name on the back yet we constantly seem to place blame on the player, or players, that made the mistakes. It really can be confusing for everyone involved in the game.

At Quantum Speed we deal with this conundrum directly. We offer players, parents and coaches a different kind of team... a DEVELOPMENT TEAM.

We define ourselves as a ‘player-centric’ company. We teach our clients to surround themselves with people and information they can use to become successful, prepared and unselfish teammates. We help our clients understand that it is only through giving proper care and attention to personal development that we can become maximum contributors to the teams they play on, coach, or cheer for.

The value of a personal support team... a development team... seems obvious once you think about it. However many players come to this awareness too late. While it is common for players to be motivated in younger years by the desire to please parents, coaches, by social factors or other “external” motivators, at some point in every players “career” there is a shift that happens. This shift is towards a choice-based personal journey where they continue to play their game on their terms.

The players that make it through this shift and go on to be high performance athletes are ones who’ve managed, through luck or good planning, to gather around themselves an amazing support team and have been exposed to the concept of “development.”

To our players: Ask yourself – “Who is on MY team?” “Am I getting consistent messaging from everyone?” “Do I have a solid picture of the kind of player I am?”

For example:

1. Am I open to growth and change?
2. Do I seek expertise in areas of weakness and commit to change?
3. Can I see that HOW I show up as a teammate reflects more than just what you do on the ice?



There is no one size fits all in the world of training and development for hockey. We wish there were a magic pill that produced amazing results, but there isn't. What we do is help you understand how to build a powerful development team that provides the support you need.

The starting point is to help you become more aware so you begin asking important questions like "who am I?" and "what do I really want to accomplish?"

With a clear outcome in mind, we work backward, layering your skating and off-ice training within a strong plan to arrive at the things you need to do today to get to the next level.

Skating coach, trainer, mental training specialist, skate fit and gear technician, massage, physio, nutritionist, chiropractor, coach, parents, etc. these can all be consciously placed around you as part of your development team. Remember they work for you. YOU are the client and belong in the centre. You are also the one that is in control of your training environment. You must make sure that all the people you surround yourself with, as part of your development team, clearly understand what you want to accomplish.

Chasing the dream is challenging, yet with great people on YOUR team, it can also be thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding. If you are chasing the wrong development or wearing the wrong equipment because someone you look up to or admire is doing it or wearing it - then you are not in the centre and are at risk of reacting to and making choices that may not be the best for you.

Ultimately there is no room in our game for selfishness or ego. However there most definitely is an "I" in TEAM. Can you see the difference?



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HOCKEY EDMONTON TIMBITS PROGRAM

Well Ahead of the Curve

Hockey Edmonton has made numerous alterations to its Initiation Program (Timbits) to meet Hockey Canada's and Hockey Alberta's Initiation Program divisional recommendations.

By Joel Lenius

These alterations have most notably involved altering the full-ice sheet into three distinct areas: TWO Small Area Game (SAG) end zones and ONE Active Rest/Play neutral zone. These alterations also included improving program curriculum, establishing a program that is more age appropriate (mentally and physically), putting more athletes on the ice together, and providing more resources to instructors – with the goal of making the hockey experience a more productive and fun environment for young (four to six years old) athletes. These alterations have been outlined extensively in communication distributions, coach and executive meetings, and on the Hockey Edmonton website. Hockey Edmonton has received both national and provincial recognition for making such progressive alterations to such a significant program.



Photo credit: Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO)



Photo credit: SC Parker Photography

Rob Litwinski (executive director, Hockey Alberta) says, "Initiation Program discussions like these are happening nationwide, and have been enduring for many years. Alterations like these may lead to better skills later in life. Although it isn't the main goal, leagues that have had similar programs, such as Quebec, seem to be producing more elite athletes. However, that's not what this is all about. This is about keeping people in the game and doing it right."

This article will attempt to summarize the rationales and studies supporting the alterations that Hockey Edmonton has made to the Initiation Program, the skills/tactics that athletes can utilize and learn within the new program, and how this new program will better prepare athletes for the next division of play.



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Repetition and “time on the ice” are significant factors influencing a younger athlete’s development.

An Initiation Program athlete’s “time on the ice” is drastically increased with the creation of the three distinct playing zones. The Active Rest/Play Zone (neutral zone) is a space for athletes to continuously develop technical skills (skating, puck-handling, passing, and shooting) in a creative environment and to receive feedback and teaching from instructors when they are not playing their shift in the SAG zone. This neutral zone setup is also an excellent space for instructors to reinforce those “teachable moments,” which are typically imparted during off-shifts on the bench in full-ice games. More time playing – and less time waiting to get back onto the ice.



Playing in a small area has significant benefits for an athlete’s puck-skill development.

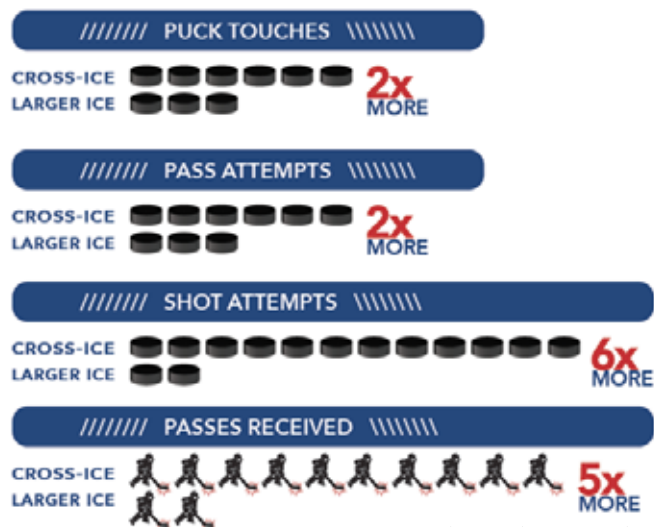


Photo credit: USA Hockey

Small Area Games (e.g. cross-ice hockey) are game-like competitive situations that utilize playing surfaces that have been reduced in size. Hockey teams often utilize SAG exercises within practices; however hockey is one of the only sports that does not modify equipment and playing surfaces at younger divisions of play.

Utilizing the same analytics technology used by the NHL, USA Hockey has proven that the benefits of cross-ice hockey for younger athletes are more than double the benefits of full-ice games. This study was conducted using strong U8 athletes. These statistics do not recognize the proportionally smaller nets that were being utilized. This analytical study showed the below statistics during a cross-ice game, in comparison to a full-ice game.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 6x more shots on goal/athlete | 5x more passes received/athlete | 2x more puck battles/athlete |
| 2x more puck touches/athlete | 2x more pass attempts/athlete | 2x more shot attempts/athlete |
| 2x more change of direction pivots | 1.75 shots/minute vs 0.45 shots/minute playing full-ice | |

How will my child develop tactical skills for full-ice hockey?

Small Area Games are utilized as effective teaching and development tools at all levels of play, even at the NHL level (see New Jersey Devil’s development camp practice setup below). SAGs are often utilized to introduce individual and team tactics and breakdown more complex systems such as penalty kill, power play, transition, down-low play, breakout options, positioning.

Ignoring that an Initiation Program athlete should be dedicating 85 percent of their ice-time to technical skill development (skating, puck-handling, passing, and shooting), below are some of the individual and team tactics that can be realistically reinforced to the Initiation Program athlete, within Hockey Edmonton’s SAG zones.



Photo credit: USA Hockey

- Puck support • Puck protection • Passing lanes • Give and go’s • Area passes • Passing in stride • Shooting in Stride • Shooting lanes • Finding and creating rebounds • Driving the net • 1v1’s • 2v1’s • Backchecking and tracking • Individual Defensive positioning (net, you, man)

Moreover, each of these tactics can be developed at a much higher rate during smaller Small Area Games. SAG’s provide more opportunities for athletes to pass, shoot, and stick-handle with less time spent chasing the puck up and down the entire rink. These opportunities will improve young athlete’s technical and tactical skills, and ultimately will facilitate a more enjoyable overall hockey experience.

What about skating analytics? - Playing in a small area has significant benefits for an athlete's skating development.

While the USA Hockey study proves the puck-handling, passing, and shooting benefits of cross-ice hockey, it does not consider skating analytics. Hockey Alberta recently conducted and released findings from an Initiation Program skating study, executed by the same USA Hockey analytics representatives. These skating results also reinforced the benefits of playing within a small area and how athlete development is not being hindered within the modified playing surface. All maximum data was achieved within the dimensions of Hockey Edmonton's SAG zones (please refer to data below and arena dimension diagram).

The average distance for the five to six year-old athletes to reach top speed was 65 feet. Athlete acceleration speeds (m/s²) increased as the ice surface size was reduced. The average sprint speed achieved in practice is double that of the average game speed. When the ice surface size decreases, acceleration rates increase and the top speed comes down.

The ability to skate fast is an important part of hockey - but it is not the only part. The data compiled by Powerscout Hockey reinforces the key tenets of the Initiation Program guidelines that reducing the size of the ice surface is important for our youngest athletes to have the best opportunity to develop the key skills associated with skating development over the long term. Being able to detach from the short-term results and focus on the long-term process - which is what is recommended by Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada through the Initiation Program guidelines and general principles of Long Term Athlete Development - is the key to helping our athletes improve, and keeping our province and country competitive in an ever-changing hockey landscape. Dr. George Kingston stated: "When you do skate competitions you are really most interested in acceleration and agility skating. The flat-out use of maximum skating in the game of hockey, it simply doesn't happen very often."

How will this new program better prepare athletes for the next division of play?

Hockey Edmonton's new Initiation Program will improve technical skills and individual tactics, which are crucial building blocks for the next division of play. Athletes will struggle to move up the development pyramid if they do not possess the skills required at the previous division of play. A simple breakout cannot be executed if athletes cannot optimally skate forward, transition, turn, puck-handle, pass, play with head up, or read the play.

Furthermore, younger athletes at the high-performance level have shown to lack the creativity and the ability to execute in stressful physical and mental situations. This is largely due to the underdevelopment of technical skills in small areas, the overuse of systematic play at younger ages, the hiding of deficiencies as opposed to fixing, etc. Coaches need to teach children to be creative and to be able to execute in game situations. "Cross-ice play puts athletes in situations where they're in a confined area and have to make quick decisions and skilled plays under pressure," said New Jersey Devils head coach John Hynes in Cross-Ice Play Integral to NHL Development Camps published by USA Hockey. "We do it to evaluate our athletes under those circumstances, where they have to read and react in game situations. We'll use it as a regular part of our practice, where athletes can compete, and there's a lot of individual development that comes out of it." Justin Fesyk (Senior Manager Hockey Development, Hockey Alberta) says, "Hockey is one of the few sports that doesn't modify the size of its playing surface and equipment based on age. These modification ideas aren't meant to make the game easier, but to help athletes learn more effectively.

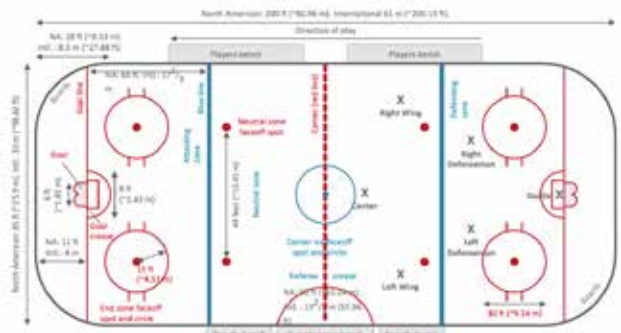


Photo credit: www.conceptdraw.com

The focus is really on making hockey more fun for kids. We want to focus on smiles on faces and positive experiences at the entry level. There'll be lots of time in novice, atom and peewee to cover the next level of the game."

Many communities across Canada have yet to adopt the modified surface setup for their Initiation Program divisions of play. Soon, it will be mandated that all Initiation Program divisions of play adopt a non-full-ice setup, with age appropriate curriculum and program guidelines. For something that will soon become the norm across Canada, Hockey Edmonton is well ahead of the curve. Numerous articles, videos, and other supporting documentation can be found on the Hockey Edmonton website, under the Initiation Program dropdown menu.



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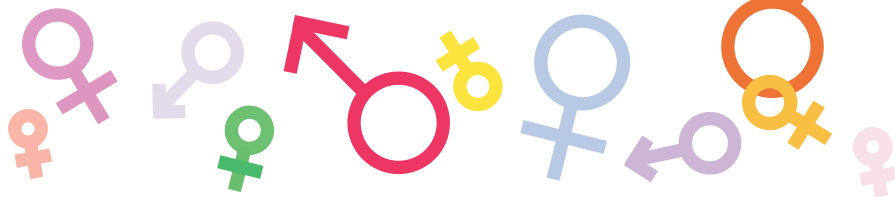
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Photos by Tegan Thompson

For more information, visit familydayclassic.com

Homonegativity in the Locker Room:



The Change is Happening Slowly.

By Shari Narine



For her doctoral thesis at Concordia University, in Montreal, Dr Cheryl MacDonald studied the attitudes on homosexuality held by 100 male Major Midget AAA hockey players. With over 3,000 players at that level nation-wide, MacDonald says her study doesn't speak for all of them, but her findings do mean there needs to be more discussion.

There is a welcomed change— although slow – happening in the dressing rooms of Major Midget AAA hockey players: there is a growing acceptance of gay hockey players.

But there is a condition to that acceptance, said Dr. Cheryl MacDonald. The results of her doctoral research found that “although young male ice hockey players may not be entirely averse to the idea of homosexuality in ice hockey, some have reservations about the potential of having an openly gay teammate.”

MacDonald studied homonegativity, what she refers to as hatred, ignorance and judgement towards homosexuality. It's different, she says, from homophobia, which is an irrational fear about homosexuality.

According to her thesis, she chose the elite Major Midget AAA level because it “is a unique site for an investigation of this nature because the players occupy a unique nexus through which they participate in a sport where homosexuality has been historically unacceptable, yet they are also considered members of a generation that is understood to be much more accepting of homosexuality than its predecessors because it is increasingly visible to them on television, the internet, and perhaps even amongst their families and friends.”



MacDonald studied 100 hockey players, ranging in age from 14 to 18 years old, all identifying as straight. The players belonged to a six-team league. Privacy laws prohibit MacDonald from identifying which province or provinces the players are from. The targeted group of boys filled out anonymous surveys and 30 agreed to in-person interviews. MacDonald also analyzed the Twitter accounts she was able to link to the players.

“Within a hockey context, the players I interviewed agreed that having a gay teammate would be okay, but only after a certain amount of time and only under certain conditions,” she wrote.

There are over 3,000 Major Midget AAA players across the country, MacDonald says her sample population is “relevant and not representative, meaning that I cannot speak for all of male Major Midget AAA in Canada.”

Some players indicated discomfort about showering with a gay hockey player and discomfort about possible flirting.

“Despite the fact that the players didn't come right out and say this, I got the feeling that having a gay teammate would be acceptable if he didn't “act gay”—that is to say that if he can function in a manly atmosphere, he would be more likely to be accepted,” she observed.

MacDonald's study also found what she referred to as “compartmentalization” among the hockey players. She found that Twitter accounts and locker room talk centred more on sexism than “fag discourse,” and that the players didn't talk this way to their parents or girlfriends.

Dr. Cheryl MacDonald's *'Yo! You Can't Say That!'* strives to understand the attitudes toward homosexuality among male Major Midget AAA hockey players. (Photo (L) : Provided by Shari Narine)

Perhaps most interesting was that some players admitted that how they behaved in the dressing room wasn't who they really were.

"Some players acknowledged that some of the hyper-masculine behaviour that takes place in a hockey context does not necessarily reflect how they see themselves as individuals," wrote MacDonald.

She added that a couple of the players admitted they avoided "meaningful conversations" about gender and sexuality for fear of being ridiculed or being called gay by teammates. But, on the flip side, some players who did engage in "fag discourse" didn't see their words as hurtful or offensive.

MacDonald also found that while the participants understood the concept of gay and straight, the majority did not know what LGBTQ stood for (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer) and were not familiar with the You Can Play project. As part of its mission statement, You Can Play is "dedicated to ensuring equality, respect and safety for all athletes, without regard to sexual orientation."

MacDonald is encouraged by the results of her study.

"My findings do give me hope that change is happening, particularly because both my work and own personal experiences in the hockey community have allowed me to watch the change happen over time," she said.

Indeed, MacDonald sees her interaction with these Major Midget AAA players as playing a role in that change.

"By pushing younger players to confront the changing landscape of masculinity and sexuality in ice hockey, I have provided the very few players who will move on to the NHL with some form of experience that will help them acclimatize to having a gay teammate in the future," she writes in her thesis.

While the NBA, NFL and MBA each has one player who has come out as openly gay, the NHL does not. MacDonald says a conversation with former Edmonton Oilers player Georges Laraque encouraged her to study homonegativity in hockey. Laraque held that every NHL team had at least one gay hockey player and told MacDonald it was important to study why these players remained silent.

MacDonald had undertaken previous studies of hockey players, focusing on the subject of masculinity.

A hockey goalie herself on a girls team, MacDonald says her curiosity was piqued after discussions with her hockey playing brothers and male friends.

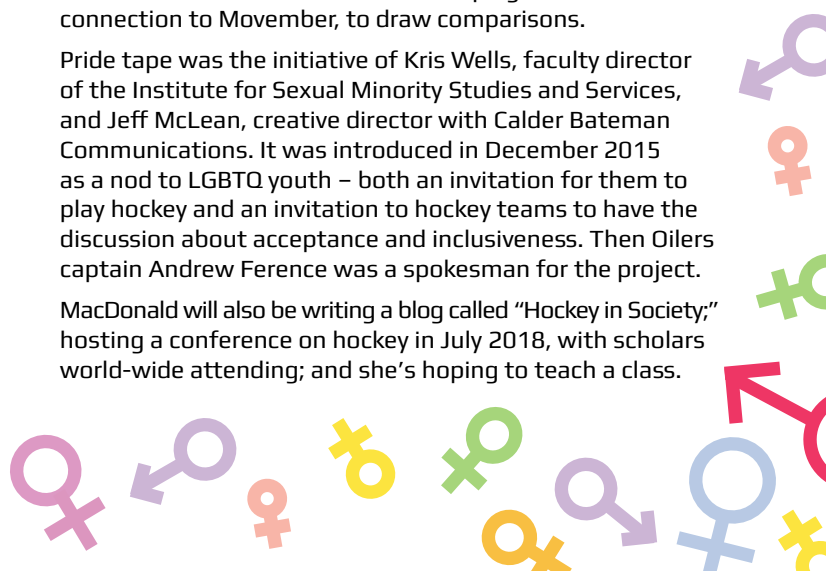
"(They) had a very different experience playing hockey than I had—namely in terms of their involvement with hazing and fighting and having to prove that they were heterosexual and mainly since none of them enjoyed those parts of hockey and I was never subjected to them in the same ways. So I wanted to learn more about their experiences," she said.

Now, with her doctoral thesis for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Concordia University, in Montreal, concluded, MacDonald is in Edmonton for the next two years and will continue her discourse on homonegativity. She is a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Alberta's Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services.

"I am interested in how gestures of solidarity, like using Pride Tape, convert to changing attitudes towards LGBTQ athletes," said MacDonald, who adds she will be looking at studies done on the Pink Ribbon Campaign and the NHL's connection to Movember, to draw comparisons.

Pride tape was the initiative of Kris Wells, faculty director of the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services, and Jeff McLean, creative director with Calder Bateman Communications. It was introduced in December 2015 as a nod to LGBTQ youth – both an invitation for them to play hockey and an invitation to hockey teams to have the discussion about acceptance and inclusiveness. Then Oilers captain Andrew Ference was a spokesman for the project.

MacDonald will also be writing a blog called "Hockey in Society;" hosting a conference on hockey in July 2018, with scholars world-wide attending; and she's hoping to teach a class.



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ZAMBONI OPERATORS ARE

“*Living the Canadian Dream*”

Article and Photos by Chris Zdeb

Someone once told rink attendant Danny Slobinyk he had the best job in Canada. She was right, he says, because what's better and more Canadian than operating a "Zamboni?"

Not all ice resurfacing machines are Zambonis. But because American Frank Zamboni invented the first such machine in 1949, that brand name has become the common reference. The Zamboni changed the resurfacing of a rink from a five-man, 90-minute task, to a one-man 12-minute job.

Getting behind the wheel of an ice resurfer was the main reason, Slobinyk, 51, became a City of Edmonton rink attendant 25 years ago.

It's also what attracted his son, Josh Slobinyk, 19, who started working at the Glengarry Arena last year.

"I've always wanted to drive the Zamboni," said Josh.

"Everybody wants to drive a Zamboni," said Danny.

Gery Wissinger, who works at the Michael Cameron Arena, remembers an 82-year-old woman who had 'driving a Zamboni' on her bucket list.

"We couldn't let her drive it," he said, but they rolled out a red carpet to a podium they built for her to climb onto the machine. About two dozen people, including family and friends, watched as she had her picture taken sitting in the driver's seat and playing with the steering wheel for about half an hour.

"She said it was her childhood dream," Wissinger said.

About 130 rink attendants get to drive an ice resurfer while looking after the 25 arenas - 32 sheets of ice - in the city.

Most of the time they have an audience watching,

"I've always enjoyed operating machinery," said Lisa Curtis, 45, who started working at The Meadows Arena three years ago. But working in front of hundreds of people in the stands is intimidating.

It makes her feel like a celebrity, she adds, with moms cheering and little kids pressing themselves against the rink glass and waving as the machine drives by.

"It's just really sweet to see that," said Curtis, who waves back and will even honk the horn when she can.

Recently she introduced herself to a two-year-old boy and his grandpa, who are in the stands every Sunday, sometimes the only ones to stay behind after a sibling's hockey game to watch the ice groomed for the figure skaters who follow.

"Every time I go by, they wave and little Noah is blowing kisses now and that just makes my day," she said.

Josh Slobinyk remembers a three-year-old girl who approached him with her grandparents and peppered him with questions about the machine, telling him she wanted drive a Zamboni one day.

Some kids run in the stands from one end of the rink to the other racing the operators on the ice, says the elder Slobinyk, who works at the Clareview Twin Arenas.

It's these young fans that make the job fun, he adds.

Rink attendants work 10-hour shifts; the early one usually starts between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m., an hour before the first booking. It involves a security check of the building and a morning flooding of the ice to smooth out any rough spots that may have developed since it was "put to bed."

Late shifts start around 4 p.m. and can run into the early hours of the next day, especially during tournaments. One of the busiest times of the year is Edmonton Minor Hockey Week held every January.

Some rinks are staffed round the clock during the annual Alberta Native Provincial Hockey Championships in April.

"To build a good quality sheet of ice is kind of a work of art," said Danny Slobinyk.

Coaches and players often compliment their efforts noting "the ice was great today."





"I know what makes good ice," Curtis said. "It has to be hard, smooth and level throughout the whole surface - but that kind of public recognition goes a long way."

A nice sheet of ice is a rink attendant's 'pride and joy,' admits Wissinger, 73, who has been at it for 28 years.

"I was in aquatics (managing the city's pools) before that and after 20-plus years circulating water in pools, I thought let's try freezing water," he joked.

Wissinger retired in 2008, but missed interacting with people and came back part-time four months later.

Many rink users think attendants just drive the ice resurfer, but that accounts for only 10 per cent of what they do, Wissinger says.

It's the "rock star" part of a rink attendant's job, says Curtis, who estimates she operates the machine about 16 times a shift on busy Sundays maintaining The Meadows' two ice sheets and the refrigerated outdoor leisure ice - the only one in Edmonton - dedicated to public skating. Ninety per cent of the operator's day is spent providing public service and cleaning to maintain a safe, clean and operational building inside and out.

Danny Slobinyk smiles remembering one young attendant who was about to get married. He lost 25 kilograms in three months, partly because of the workout he got cleaning rink glass and mopping the stands and floors every day.

Over the years he's noticed hockey teams have become more responsible in cleaning up after themselves. "You used to go into the dressing room and it would look like a bomb went off in there. Now, the majority of users are perfect."

Just like the job.

Lisa Curtis's husband has been operating heavy equipment for over 35 years but has never driven a Zamboni or Olympia ice surfacing machine.

"That kind of added fuel to my fire to be able to say that I have," she said laughing, not to mention it impressed the heck out of her four sons. "It's my favourite thing to do with this job, absolutely."

"I think everybody looks at somebody that drives an Olympia or Zamboni and thinks that's really cool."

"I am living the Canadian dream."



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[By Rob Suggitt]



[Photos provided by Avonlea Photography]

I caught a very exciting Bantam AAA game in early December, but it was a young referee who really captured my attention. It was a tight contest with lots of close calls to make, and I left the game impressed with the composure and confidence displayed by the officials that night. In particular, the referee who called the game really stood out – 22-year-old Cassandra Gregory.

I met up with Cassandra a few months later, as she was about to get on the ice to officiate a female college hockey game between the Grant MacEwan Griffins and Red Deer College. The game took place at the beautiful Downtown Community Arena in Rogers Place, which is the home arena for the Grant MacEwan men's and women's hockey teams. (And what a gem of an arena to call your home rink.)

Unlike the Bantam AAA game where Cassandra had a few years on the players, Cassandra was about the same age as the participants in this college hockey game. And just like the game's participants, Cassandra is a post-secondary student, studying kinesiology at the University of Alberta.

Aside from school studies and officiating hockey, Cassandra runs pub crawls part-time, and her hobbies and interests include flag football, golf, running and snowshoeing. She started officiating at 13 years old, and currently officiates over 100 games a season. (Last year, she officiated 114 games.) Cassandra took time before going on the ice to chat with us about her interest in officiating hockey, and her future aspirations.

Hockey Edmonton: What made you want to become a hockey official?

Cassandra Gregory: I wanted to get a part time job and this was the only one my parents would let me have.

HE: How did your parents handle the games and scrutiny which comes with being a young hockey official?

CG: They just tried to avoid the coaches and parents when they stuck around to watch. My dad was my toughest critic – not mean or anything, but if I missed an obvious call, he would let me know.

HE: Which do you prefer – referee or linesman?

CG: I prefer to be a linesman – you have a completely different rapport with the players. It's really hard for a linesman to screw up a game – they will usually yell at the ref, but rarely the linesman.

HE: What level of hockey are you currently officiating?

CG: I skate Midget AAA/Junior B and everything below on the male side. For female hockey, I skate CIS (university) and below.

HE: I understand that you have officiated Minor Hockey Week every year you've been an official. Recognizing that officials donate their time (and are not paid), what makes you volunteer your time as an official for Minor Hockey Week?

CG: When I played, MHW was the most fun tournament of the year. It was more exciting to win MHW than it was to win playoffs. A lot of officials get into the mindset that they are "above" the level of hockey they are working. They forget that the game doesn't owe us anything but we owe the game everything. If you aren't officiating/playing/coaching because you love the game, you're in it for the wrong reasons.

HE: Do you have any special memories from Minor Hockey Week?

CG: As an official, my first Minor Hockey Week final was a lot of fun to work. It's really cool that the tournament gives us the same reward as they do to the finalists (i.e. Oil Kings tickets, mugs, medals, etc.).

HE: Do you have any highlights related to any other big games or tournaments you wish to pass along?

CG: Last season, I worked the National Women's Under-18 tournament in Huntsville, ON. It was my first national tournament and it was surreal to get off the plane, have a host waiting with a sign for you, and getting to skate with the next generation of potential Olympic team players.

HE: What do you enjoy most about officiating hockey games?

CG: You go on the ice and nothing else matters. It doesn't matter if you've had a terrible day; you step on the ice and that's the only thing you're thinking about.

HE: What kind of training were/are you provided?

CG: I was fortunate enough to have been selected to attend the Referee Development Camp in June of 2016. It's a week long camp and is run in conjunction with the Male U16 Development Camp. For officials, we go over off-ice and on-ice testing, nutrition, power skating and other tools to help us get to the next level. Aside from development camp, we get supervised at games and we have to take a clinic every year to learn new rules and brush up on some old ones.



HE: Do you have a role model or mentor who has helped you along the way?

CG: There have been a ton of people who helped me along the way, however, the one who I feel has helped me the most has been Aaron Best. She was in charge of the female

program when I was still a fairly new official and took me under her wing. I wouldn't be where I am today without her.

HE: With your 10 years' experience, do you find yourself offering any mentorship to younger officials?

CG: Yes, for sure. A couple of weeks ago, I was on a road trip to Lethbridge and Calgary, and I was joined by one of the up and coming female officials. She had so many questions, and I tried to pass along any feedback or advice I could offer.

HE: How have you improved your skills as an official?

CG: I spend a lot of time watching elite officials and learning from them. I ask a lot of questions as to why they do things that I've never seen before. Along with that, every CIS game I work, I get a copy of the game and review it. Just as players would, I go through and watch the game tape and see what I could've done differently in certain situations (getting bumped down the line as a linesman, or how to get a better sightline as a referee). Fitness is also important once you start working higher levels, so I always try to keep up with that.

HE: What is the toughest part about being a referee?

CG: The hardest part for me is bouncing back after you make a call you aren't happy with. We're all human and we all make mistakes. The thing with being a referee is that you don't get to sit out a shift and reset. You have to keep going while everyone yells at you; you can't let it seem like it's bothering you. I'll always admit to a coach/player when I've messed up and usually that helps them calm down a little.

HE: Being one of the few female referees, are there any extra challenges in dealing with players or coaches?

CG: It definitely makes things a little different. You step into the arena and everyone immediately notices you. And it makes me an easy target. However, I've had more issues at the lower levels I skate. At the higher levels, a lot of the coaches and players understand that officials don't get put into games without earning our spots. Once I step on the ice and doing just as good of a job as the rest of the crew, my gender becomes irrelevant and they treat me the same as they would any other official.

HE: How do you handle criticism on the ice?

CG: We have to treat disrespect with respect. If you're confident with your calls, it makes it easier to be calm. Hockey is a game. People get emotional and you can't take it personally. Of course, if it gets over the top, there are rules in the rulebook to help you out.

HE: Do you have any future aspirations in officiating?

CG: The next step I would like to take is to skate an IIHF tournament. Long term, I'd love to go to the Olympics.

HE: Do you have comments you wish to share with parents, coaches or anyone watching minor hockey?

CG: We're all human. We're all somebody's kids. We lose a lot of referees every year because of the abuse that they receive. We don't yell at your child when they mess up a pass or miss on a breakaway. At the end of the day, hockey is just a game and we all need to remember that.

2017 WAYNE GRETZKY AWARD WINNERS

By Rob Suggitt

Photos Provided by Marc J Chalifoux Photography



The Wayne Gretzky Award is awarded annually during Quikcard Edmonton Minor Hockey Week to a participant in the AA, BB and Junior programs. The recipients are nominated and chosen based on sportsmanship, scholastic achievement and community involvement.

This year's recipients were Brennan Kowalchuk, Nikolai Kruhlak, and Dakota Heise, all three young men who exhibit the best qualities of youth in sports.



Brennan Kowalchuk, who is 14 years-old, plays Bantam AA for the Canadian Athletic Club Golden Arrows team. "My fundraising efforts include doing the hair massature for the last 5 years. I want to raise money and awareness for Stollery hospital for all they do for sick kids. And the Make-A-Wish foundation for fulfilling a dream of a child that needs some hope. And for the Run for the Cure, to someday find a cure for cancer, a disease that has touched so many including a close friend of mine and other family friends."

Kowalchuk dyed his hair pink for the hair massature, helping raise money for Make-A-Wish and the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation.

Kowalchuk also volunteers for 630 CHED, Santas Anonymous and the Edmonton Food Bank. Brennan had this to say about winning the award: "It felt absolutely amazing to win an award dedicated to the best player who ever played in the NHL." Brennan "wore" his dyed pink hair to his interview with Ron MacLean and Tara Sloan on Hometown Hockey. "It was one of the best experiences of my life. I've seen so many others on Hometown Hockey and I only dreamed about going on and being interviewed just like an NHL player."



15-year-old Nikolai Kruhlak plays for the SEERA Southeast Sasquatch Midget Hockey Team. Winning the Wayne Gretzky Award runs in the family – Kruhlak’s three older brothers are past recipients of this award. Kruhlak is an honours student at Austin O’Brien High School, and is an active volunteer. “I have been involved in many areas of volunteer and community work. Last year, I volunteered at the Festival of Trees, and for the past

four years at 630 CHED Santa’s Anonymous. I have also collected pledges and participated in the annual Forzani Mother’s Day Walk in support of the Stollery Children’s Hospital for the past 4 years.” Nikolai also volunteers at the Edmonton Humane Society, and is deeply involved in charities with his church. Nikolai had this to say about winning the Wayne Gretzky Award. “It was just a great honour to be selected to receive this award. I enjoy volunteering and being involved in all the activities I do, so I normally just carry on with what I do. Then when I was recognized for my volunteer and academic work, it made me feel proud that I am helping make my community a better place. Hockey has been such an important part of my life that winning this award is going to be a great memory for me.”



Dakota Heise is an 18-year-old with the Northstars Junior C Hockey Club. Heise is currently in his first year of studies at the University of Alberta, in the faculty of education.

Dakota takes a lot of pride in describing his volunteer experience. “Over the years I have been involved within the NEZ hockey program in several areas: I have evaluated players, and ran on-ice evaluations. I have been an assistant coach at the following levels: initiation, novice

and the zone atom team. I have been helping my parents run arenas for Quikcard Edmonton Minor Hockey Week for several years. I am currently an assistant coach of the Eastglen High school senior men’s handball team. I am also volunteering two afternoons a week in a grade 5 class at Overlanders Elementary School, assisting the teacher with the students.”

Dakota really enjoyed the whole experience. “It was a pleasure to be at Rogers Place seeing all the past greats of hockey, and seeing how the Edmonton community supports minor hockey. Given the opportunity to share this experience with my family was a moment my grandparents will never forget. Having them there to share it with them is something I will never forget. Thank you to the Quikcard Minor Hockey Week Committee for choosing me as a recipient this year.”

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| 2. Bill Hunter Arena
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13160 - 137th Avenue |
| 3. Broadmoor Arena (Sherwood Park)
2100 Oak Street, Sherwood Park | 19. Londonderry Aena
14520 - 66th Street |
| 4. Callingwood Arena
17650 - 69th Avenue | 20. Michael Cameron Arena
10404 - 56th Street |
| 5. Canadian Athletic Club Arena
14645 - 142nd Street | 21. Millennium Place (Sherwood Park)
2000 Premier Way, Sherwood Park |
| 6. Castle Downs Arena
6A3, 11520 - 153 Avenue | 22. Mill Woods Rec. Centre
7207 - 28th Avenue |
| 7. Clare Drake Arena
87th Avenue & 115th Street | 23. Nait Arena
11762 - 106th Street |
| 8. Clareview Arena
3804 - 139th Avenue | 24. Oliver Arena
10335 - 119th Street |
| 9. Confederation Arena
11204 - 43rd Avenue | 25. Russ Barnes Arena
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| 10. Coronation Arena
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| 11. Crestwood Arena
9940 - 147th Street | 27. Terwillegar Rec. Centre Subway Arena
2051 Leger Road |
| 12. Donnan Arena
9105 - 80th Avenue | 28. The Meadows Community Rec. Centre
2704 - 17th Street |
| 13. George S. Hughes Arena
10525 - 72nd Avenue | 29. Tipton Arena
10828 - 80th Avenue |
| 14. Glengarry Arena
13340 - 85th Street | 30. Westwood Arena
12040 - 97 Street |
| 15. Grand Trunk Arena
13025 - 112th Street | 31. Downtown Community Arena (Rogers Place)
10330 - 105th Avenue |
| 16. Kenilworth Arena
8313 - 68A Street | |

ARENA LOCATOR MAP



THE NHL'S TOP-RATED REFEREE

WES MCCAULEY

By Rob Suggitt

Photos courtesy of Andy Devlin
Edmonton Oilers Hockey Club

BEING A HOCKEY OFFICIAL IS
THE ONLY JOB IN THE WORLD
WHERE YOU'RE EXPECTED TO BE
PERFECT YOUR FIRST DAY ON THE
JOB, AND IMPROVE FROM THERE



When you're an NHL player, you want to keep playing past the regular season, and it's no different for NHL officials. The ultimate goal is to reach the Stanley Cup finals, and only the two best teams make it every year, and only the four highest rated referees are assigned games in the Cup finals.

Wes McCauley has proven himself to be one of the top officials in the NHL, making it to the Stanley Cup finals the last four years in a row. (Add the World Cup of Hockey assignment this past fall and McCauley has become the "go to" official for big games or tournaments.)

When asked how it feels to have been selected as one of the final four NHL referees the past four seasons, McCauley doesn't gloat... "It's pretty humbling, and overwhelming, it's always a goal. There were a lot of years when I just got in the business when it was just the first round for a number of years, and then one year I got to go to the conference finals, then the next year, I got chosen to do the finals. That was the Boston - Chicago final in 2013, and it was a really good series." McCauley went on to do the 2014, 2015, and 2016 Stanley Cup Finals.

McCauley's dream growing up was to make it to the NHL as a player. Drafted by the Detroit Red Wings in 1990, McCauley played a lot of hockey in the minor leagues (Las Vegas, Knoxville, Muskegon, Fort Wayne), but never got the call up to the NHL.

"Coming up, I always thought I was going to be a player. I played college hockey for Michigan State, and played three or four seasons in the minors. I was playing in Fort Wayne late in my pro career, and the coach there, Dave Farrish (former NHL player, and currently assistant coach with the Colorado Avalanche) wanted to chat with me after a pair of weekend games. I was feeling pretty good, because I thought I played well, so I'm meeting with Dave, and he says, 'There were a lot of scouts in the stands, and your name got brought up.' So I'm feeling really good (thinking maybe this is my call-up to play in the NHL.) Dave continued, 'Yeah - we were thinking with the NHL going with two referees, we're looking at certain ex-players, and with your bloodlines, we think you'd make a real good referee.' So here I was thinking that the scouts were talking about me going up, and as it turned out, I was going to be sent down to the United League."

As for "bloodlines," McCauley's dad John McCauley was an NHL referee from 1966-1981, a career which was stopped short due to an eye injury he sustained from an assault by a crazed hockey fan after a game between the NHL All-Stars and the Soviet Union in 1979. He tried working for a few years afterwards, but due to blurred vision, he had to give it up. The elder McCauley went on to become the Director of Officiating for the NHL, until his untimely death in 1989. He was only 44 years old.

McCauley was just 17 when his dad passed away, but still remembers seeing him call NHL games. "We used to go to all the games he worked. I probably saw him work up until I was around seven years old. I remember a game in Buffalo when they were playing the Leafs - the two teams had a pretty good rivalry. I remember a very angry Tiger Williams knocking on the door, and asking why John threw him out of the game. John responded, 'I got the kid here,' and looking over to where I was sitting, Tiger calmly responded, 'Sorry John,' letting the issue go, then proceeded to take me over to the Leafs dressing room to meet the Leaf players."

Refs do 73 games a season and usually see all 30 teams every season and all 30 rinks. It's rare for an NHL referee to do back to back games with the same team in the regular season, just so there's not too much familiarity between teams and officials.

Playoff assignments are based on merit, and only 20 out of the 33 full-time NHL referees get assignments for the playoffs. (And the top 20 out of 33 full time linesmen.) And from there, the number of referee assignments diminished by round. 12 and 12 in the second round, then eight and eight, then four and four. Only the top four highest rated NHL referees get to officiate the Stanley Cup finals, something all NHL referees aspire to. There are bonus dollars for every round worked, but it's mostly pride and the thrill of working the most important games of the season that motivates officials to make these cuts.

"A lot of people remember my dad, and have very nice things to say about him. For a man who's been gone more than 25 years, it's pretty amazing to hear his name being brought up still. The biggest thing I learned from my dad was that he was happy for other people's success. That's a trait that I try to follow, and emulate. If you're not jealous of other people, you're probably a very content and happy person."

When asked about his first NHL game, McCauley states without hesitation "Chicago at Columbus," and recites a number of NHL stars playing in that game: (Brent Seabrook, Duncan Keith, Martin Havlat, Patrick Sharp and Theo Fleury for the Blackhawks, and Rick Nash and Sergei Fedorov for the Blue Jackets.) McCauley adds that "Doug MacLean was coaching Columbus, and Brian Sutter was coaching Chicago."

"When you're first up and watching some of these guys, it's like wow, (but you gotta stay focused). It comes with experience, but still, there are times (on the ice) when you see a great play or great individual effort, and it's wow - did I just see him make that play?"



McCauley's first NHL game was actually scheduled to take place a week later in Buffalo, but he got a call about four hours before the Chicago-Columbus game saying that Brad Watson had food poisoning. He was in Cincinnati at the time (just worked an AHL game there), so he made the two-hour drive to Columbus, hardly having any time to think about his first game in the bigs, and this is where he stayed. (He ended up doing five games in five night, because he kept a few more of his AHL assignments, while moving over to the NHL ranks.). "It's kinda off the beaten part a bit, probably a bit more travel than the other guys, but it's a great place to live."

When asked about any current players who impress him, McCauley is quick to point out Jarome Iginla. "When I first came into the league, Jarome was in Calgary. It was one of my first games there, and I remember him coming up to shake my hand to say, 'I'm Jarome Iginla, nice to meet you.' There's a guy who went out of his way to make me feel welcome in the bigs, and not that he had to – he just wanted to do this, even though he knew we would have dealings down the road."



When asked about coaches, McCauley remarked, "There are lot of different personalities. It's hard to single any one of them out, but I will say this – they're all pros."

"It's not like when I was a kid growing up. It's interesting – I feel like I've grown with some, guys you've had battles with, we seem to be on the same page. I remember the late Pat Quinn was always good to me, and part of that was because of my dad."

"The biggest thing I've found over the years, you show them you care, that you have a passion for the game, and that you want to call a fair game, that's all they want. So some of the guys we find a little fiery, for any guys coming up, the advice to young officials I give is to show them you care. When there's a contentious call, take the time to go to the bench and listen to the coach. Sometimes it's going over to get an earful... "Are you done." "Yup." You don't always have to give an answer, but it's off their chest, and the game continues."

What's the best part of being an NHL referee?

"On the ice," answered without hesitation, and with asserted glee. "I know I'm biased, but you're on the ice with the best athletes in the world. It's the next best thing to playing. You're basically playing the game, you gotta kinda play the

“

WE HAVE TO (BE GOOD AT COMMUNICATING) WITH THE PLAYERS AND COACHES. I THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT. A BIG PART OF OUR JOB IS TO KEEP THE GAME FAIR AND SAFE. THEY WANT TO WIN, AND THEY WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES.

”

game a bit but without the stick. You gotta anticipate, you gotta think where they're gonna go, what they're going to do with the puck. You gotta stay out of the way. You have to think the game, almost like a player."

How important is training and fitness?

"I think it's everything – health, diet, fitness. Just like the players, you know if you keep yourself in shape, you're going to be out there, and it's a great living. It really doesn't feel like a job. I get paid to skate around with the best players in the world, travel to these great cities all over North America. I've got to do an outdoor game at Yankee Stadium. And last year, I officiated the Montreal-Boston matchup in Foxboro, Massachusetts. It's really neat – the league's real good to us. The day before, we get the ice to ourselves, the four guys working the game, along with our families, for 45 minutes of icetime all to ourselves. It's nice for the kids to get to see one of the little perks dad gets. Maybe when dad is not always home for everything, here's something special to enjoy. To see them – they love it. They have a great time." (Wes has three children: one son (16), and two daughters (14 & nine), and they all play hockey.)

What's your game day routine?

"Most of the guys will meet for breakfast, have a bit of a workout. Fitness is so important, and that's for the better. If you compare us to other officials in other sports, because of the physical demands of our sport, the better we can stay in shape, you're going to keep that experienced official for longer."

How important is communication?

"We have to (be good at communicating) with the players and coaches. I think it's very important. A big part of our job is to keep the game fair and safe. They want to win, and they will do whatever it takes. But they look at us (partly) as the four guys who are in their way of winning. You have to manage this part carefully, and I think communication is a big part of it."

"I'm a believer that we have to work together, and get through the game together. We're all going to make mistakes, but the key is that when you make a mistake, you don't let it blow up on you."

Speaking of communication, how does it feel to have one of your calls go viral? (At a Boston-Montreal game in February, McCauley made a dramatic "fighting" call.)

"You know what – I love the game. I wasn't planning on making a dramatic call that night – I was into the game. And when it went viral, it was like holy moly."

“Steven Walkom, NHL Director of Officiating, had no problem with the call either.

“I loved that part because I used to do that and I’ve been telling the guys if they’re signalling a fight, use it,” Walkom said. “The funny thing is there has never been an actual signal for fighting in the NHL. We have always had an official signal for every other infraction but we have never had one for fighting.

“So when I refereed, I made it up, I just called it that way. Put up your dukes, eh? It’s the universal symbol for fighting. I thought, why not? I told the guys in our [preseason] training camp to use it if they want, so Wes did a good job with that.”

Who did you cheer for growing up?

“I never really had a team. I mostly cheered for players. Later on, I became a defenseman, so I really liked Paul Coffey and Ray Bourque, and before that, Bobby Orr obviously.”

“There were a lot of games where I sat near the scouts, so I would just watch the game, and notice the great plays on both sides. I was a pretty lucky guy. Dad would have meetings, and my brother and I would just go skate. I remember he had a meeting with Scotty Bowman in Buffalo, and we just went to skate on the same ice the French Connection Line played on at the Buffalo Memorial Auditorium.”

Why jersey #4?

“I wore #41 when I was in the American League, and when Terry Gregson retired, I made the switch to #4. I was always a Bobby Orr fan, and my dad was 44 when he passed away (same age as Wes today), and his birthday was October 4th, so I went with #4.”

Last question. What advice would you give to aspiring young hockey officials?

“Obviously you have to know the rules, how to skate, positioning, your mannerisms. The biggest thing is take care of the things you can control.

“Officiating sometimes requires a bit of a split personality – sometimes you need to be tough, and sometimes you need to be a bit of a hugger.

“At the youth level, the hardest thing is the parents. The youth hockey player has a coach and gets to practice, but there’s really no practice for being an official – it’s just game experience. It’s hard, but they have to have a lot of self-evaluation. You have to ask your peers how they would you handle or call certain situation. Part of it is that you might not know you made a mistake – you may not have a mentor or supervisor at every one of your games.

““

IT REALLY DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A JOB. I GET PAID TO SKATE AROUND WITH THE BEST PLAYERS IN THE WORLD & TRAVEL TO THESE GREAT CITIES ALL OVER NORTH AMERICA.

””

“The best advice I got early on, and because there was no video replay, was to get the goals (or non-goals) called right. Everyone wants to see goals. Get yourself in position behind the goal line to make the right call. If I’m waiving it off at the top of the circle, I’m probably catching the wrath of the players or coaches. I was always told early in my career ‘get to the line, get to the net, and make the right call.’”



Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

NOVICE BAHNSEN



KC059 - KC KNIGHTS OILERS

Players: SANTINO BALBUENA - HERNANDEZ | ZADE ELIASON | ESTEBAN FLOREZ NOAH JACQUES | SAHIB JOHAL | DARIEN KOSAK | ETHAN MACDONALD JAMES PAULS | COHEN PEREVERSOFF | JENNA PIGEON | MAYANK SAGARE COOPER SHARPE | RAINE STEVENS | ALEXANDER VAILLANT | CHARLIE VIENS

Staff: HARRY JOHAL | KARL KOSAK | BRENT SHARPE
ADAM STEVENS | JOHN VAILLANT | JAY VIENS

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

NOVICE BOUCHARD



SW576 - CONFED THUNDER

Players: NOLAN BISSON | ROWAN DUKE | ALEXANDER GRANT | DARIUS HORDAL | LIAM HUCKABEE | MATHIEU LEMIEUX | HARRISON MCLEOD WILSON OHNYSTY | KALDER PEROZNI | ZACHARY SCHWARTZ | NOLAN SERDACHNY | NOLAN STEWART | LUCA VADORI | CASEN VADORI

Staff: THOMAS DUKE | SHANE HORDAL | CHAD MCLEOD | DANIEL SERDACHNY | ROBERT STEWART | KEVIN VADORI

Gold Medal Winner NOLAN STEWART



Age: 9 **Grade:** 4
Current Team:
Confed Thunder
Number of Years Played: 5
Usual Position:
Centre / left wing
Favourite Hockey Team:
Pittsburgh Penguins & Edmonton Oilers
Favourite Hockey Player:
Sidney Crosby & Connor McDavid
Who is your Role Model:
My hockey coaches
Other Hobbies / Interests:
Soccer, camping & golf
Favourite Hockey Memory:
Scoring the game winning goal at the North American Hockey Classic to win gold - June 2016

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

NOVICE BOYCHUK



BE893 - BEAUMONT NOVICE 6

Players: TYLER BOUCHER | HUDSON BOULANGER | NOLAN BUCKLER | AUSTIN CASWELL | COLE CHAMBERLAND | AUSTIN CORREA | LUCAS DA ESTRELA | JAXSON DAUB | AARON MCCALLA | SHAE MCMASTER | ETHAN PARSONS | BALROOP SINGH | LINCOLN THOMAS | ASHTON TONER | GEORGIA WINKELMANN

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Gold Medal Winner JAXSON DAUB



Age: 7 **Grade:** 2
Current Team: Beaumont Braves
Number of Years Played: 2
Usual Position: Forward
Favourite Hockey Team: Edmonton Oilers
Favourite Hockey Player: Connor McDavid
Who is your Role Model: My Dad
Other Hobbies / Interests: Building things & Taekwondo
Favourite Hockey Memory: Winning my first gold medal this year in minor hockey week!

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM NOVICE DAMER



SG849 - SPRUCE GROVE NOVICE 5

Players: LOGAN BYERS | SETH CLARK | JACKSON DOIRON | ZACHARY GETZINGER
 CONNOR GRAY | BENEDICT HANKINSON | JAGGER KEITH | CAMERON KOSTER
 JOSHUA MENNIE | PAXTON MUGFORD | JUSTIN OUELLETTE | DAMERY PRIEBE
 KEENAN PRIEBE | AIDAN SAMPSON | BRETT WALKER | HAZEN WILHAUK
Staff: RYAN DOIRON | DAVE GRAY | NOLAN KEITH | DENIS OUELLETTE
 NEIL SAMPSON | TREVOR WILHAUK

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

NOVICE ELIASON



SA727 - ST ALBERT NOVICE 5B

Players: NOAH ANDREWS | TODD AXELSON | HUDSON BARBER
BECK CROZIER | SHAE DECHAMPLAIN | DYLAN DOLYNNY | MATTEO GIORDANO
HUDSON HUNT | CARTER JACKSON | NIKHIL JAMANI | LIAM JAMES | ERIK
KAZURO | SAMUEL NEWTON | ETHAN PECUSH | GRADY RUTLAND | WYATT WIKER

Staff: ERIK AXELSON | JASON DOLYNNY | IAN HUNT
CORY PECUSH | WADE RUTLAND

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

NOVICE FERGUSON



SW578 - CONFED WOLF

Players: PACKCOLE AUTON | ARMAAN BHANDAL | COOPER BONDY
DECLAN BRINKMAN | NOLAN BUDD | OLIVER CHORLEY | REID DEGENHARDT
LOGAN DOLL | CLAIRE HINGLEY | LOGAN KACZUR | LAUREN SHEPHERD
LUKAS STEINHUBL | LEVI VOSS

Staff: DARREN CHORLEY | MICHAEL DEGENHARDT | DAVID HINGLEY
DARREN SHEPHERD | DENNIS STEINHUBL | MIKE VOSS

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

NOVICE GRETZKY



SA729 - ST ABERT FEMALE NOVICE 2

Players: ZOEY BAHL | RYLEIGH BUCHANAN | ERIKA CARLSON | NINA CHOINIERE
ISABELLA HUMPHRIES | SLOANE KIBERMANIS | MCKENNA KIBERMANIS | AUTUMN KNOWLTON
MEADOW KREISER | ALEXA LA FORGE | AVA LAZAROFF | JADYN LEGASSICK | KENNEDY
MACMILLAN | OLIVIA MCCLELLAND | BRIELLE MONETTE | ISABELLE OLMSTEAD
MALIA RUSSELL | ISABELLA YOUNG

Staff: JEFFREY CARLSON | TOM HUMPHRIES | CHRIS KIBERMANIS
ALANNA KNOWLTON | BIL LA FORGE | JASON LAZAROFF | RYAN LEGASSICK
ROGER MONETTE | BILL RUSSELL | ROBERT YOUNG

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

NOVICE HEIN



SW587 - CONFED DIAMOND CRUSHERS

Players: FINLEY ANDERSON | SANUKA ATTANAYAKE | CASEY BAIN | GAVIN
CHO | LARRINA GONG | RYAN JOHNSON | NOAH KOURI | TAITEN MA
GAVIN MORRIS | JORDAN PETTIGREW | NATHAN RILEY
SAMUEL SCHELLENBERG | LIAM SPILA

Staff: STEVEN BAIN | TED KOURI | SCOTT MORRIS | CRAIG RILEY
DENNIS SCHELLENBERG | KEVIN SPILA

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Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

NOVICE KIRILLO



SE413 - MILLWOODS RAIDERS

Players: WYATT AINSWORTH | ALEXANDER AUBIN | NATHAN CARREIRO
MARSHALL CRAIG | ROCCO EASTHOM | KYLEN ELLIOTT | CARTER FLOYD
JAXXEN FULFIT | EASTON HANS | DANE JENSEN | KAYNE JOHNSON
ETHAN LANGDON | DAMON PRENTICE | GURSHAN
SINGH SRAW | JACE VANDERHAM

Staff: KELLY AINSWORTH | SCOTT CARREIRO | DEREK EASTHOM | TREVOR
ELLIOTT | JASON HANS | KEVIN JOHNSON | CLAY VANDERHAM

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

NOVICE KORBUTT



SW648 - SWAT FIREBLADES

Players: AHRSHANTH ANAND | LUKAS BUCERIUS | OWEN GIBSON
BRAYDEN KITT | JERRY LI | JAYDEN LI | EVAN MCINNES | NISHANT NAIK
FELIX RAWSON | AVERY TANNER | THEOREN THIBEAULT | ZAYAAN USMANI
OWEN WALSH | ALAN XU | JASON ZHAO

Staff: PATRICK KITT | DEAN RAWSON | DANIEL THIBEAULT
NAWAID USMANI | KEVIN WALSH

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

NOVICE LIBER



SW577 - CONFED DEVILS

Players: KESLER ASHTON | YONAS BURGESS | TYLER DYCK | JACOB EVANS
LUCAS FOLK | JAIDEN HAMEED | BRANDON HUI | GAVIN SEITZ | PARKER
SKLARCHUK | ALEXANDER TCHESNOKOV | NIKOLAS TJORUSKINS
MATTHEW VASS | MADDEN WOO | LOGAN ZIMMER

Staff: VICTOR ASHTON | PETER EVANS | DWAYNE FOLK | SULMAAN
HAMEED | SANGTAE WOO | SHAWN ZIMMER

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

NOVICE MACDOUGALL



KC046 - KC ST. CHARLES STINGERS

Players: BRANDON BERNARDO | MALONE BLAZIC | JADEN CHALMERS
JULIAN CHAVEZ-BARRALES | MARCUS CIEPLY | AIDEN CORLESS | LUCAS
CORLESS | NOAH CORREIA | ANTHONY DROUIN-WALLINE | REECE ELWILLY
JACOB MAY | ELDON MEMNOOK | ALIYAH USHKOWSKI

Staff: JOE BERNARDO | MICHAEL BLAZIC | MATT CORLESS
JASON MAY | JASON USHKOWSKI

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

NOVICE MCLEAN



SW646 - SWAT CRUSHERS

Players: SPENCER ADAGALA | AHRSHANTH ANAND | JOSHUA BARKEMEYER
ELLIOT BOSKERS | ANDREW FANG | CARSON FIKS | BRAYDEN GIN | AUSTIN
KELEMEN | HAYDEN LINDEMANN | ALEXANDER LUPIEN | BEN MCGILLIVRAY
JONATHAN O'CONNELL | HUDSON SCHNEIDER | AARYAN SHARMA | RYAN ZAPS

Staff: LARRY BARKEMEYER | NATHAN BOSKERS | TED FIKS
KEN GIN | KELSEY KELEMEN | RAVI SHARMA

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

NOVICE PHILLIPS



SA725 - ST ALBERT NOVICE 4

Players: CAMERON BEGIN | RILEY DENSMORE | TYSON DVORAK | MAXTON
HARTMAN | BRAYDON HOOPER | SIMON KENT | BLAKE LATTA
HUDSON MCCALLUM | JACEN MOORE | DYLAN MORRIS | JONAH OSBORNE
BLAKE REITER | BENJAMIN SCHERER | TANNER SHILLABEER-MCNABB
MATTHIAS TYLIAKOS | JACK WILDE

Staff: JOEY DVORAK | RYAN HARTMAN | SHANE MOORE
GRANT MORRIS | TIM OSBORNE | RICK REITER

Gold Medal Winner BRANDON BERNARDO



Age: 7
Grade: 2
Current Team:
 KC Stingers
Number of Years Played: 3
Usual Position:
 Centre
Favourite Hockey Team:
 Edmonton Oilers
Favourite Hockey Player:
 Connor McDavid

Who is your Role Model: My Dad

Other Hobbies / Interests: Soccer & video games

Favourite Hockey Memory: Winning gold at minor hockey week and scoring a hat-trick!

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

NOVICE MANDEVILLE



SE456 - NORTH SEERA

Players: COLE AMY | HUNTER BENNETT | KAYNE BENNETTS | JONAH BURNHAM | XAVIER COMPRI | HAYDEN QUINN | DE ANDRADE-SPRONK QUINN HAYTER | NATHAN MCCARTNEY | CASH MERCREDI | SAMUEL NEWANS | MAXWELL OUTRAM | COLIN SHUTE | NOLAN WONG-MAGICO

Staff: CORY HAYTER | JORDAN LOWEY | WILL MCCARTNEY
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Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

NOVICE VIRGIL



SG846 - SPRUCE GROVE NOVICE 2

Players: OWEN BASHOW | SAMUEL CORBETT | THOMAS DESJARLAIS
BRAYDEN HACKETT | BAKER HELM | MIKAEL HOGMAN | MICHAEL KAPLAN
OWEN KENNEDY | JOSHUA KENNEDY | XANDER LAMOUREUX | BRODY
LOGAN | MATHEW MUSTUS | GARET OSTAPCHUK | ANTHONY SCOTT
KADE TREFANENKO | JAREN WARD

Staff: GORD CORBETT | RICHARD HOGMAN | AARON KAPLAN | RYAN
KENNEDY | PAT LOGAN | NICOLAS TREFANENKO

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

NOVICE WILLIAMS



NW337 - WHITEMUD WEST - LYNNWOOD CANUCKS

Players: BRANDON CARRIERE | HUTCH HOLLIDAY | OLIVER LAFFIN
JONAH MORGAN | NATE MORGAN | BRODY PEAY | KAIDEN SCHMULAND
CASEY SEIBEL | BRADY STOIK | TREY WHITFORD
REEVE WRIGHTSELL | ALEKSANDER ZAWADIUK

Staff: LIONEL CARRIERE | PETER LAFFIN | ROBIN MORGAN | NATHAN
SCHMULAND | JESSICA STOIK | STEPHANIE ZAWADIUK

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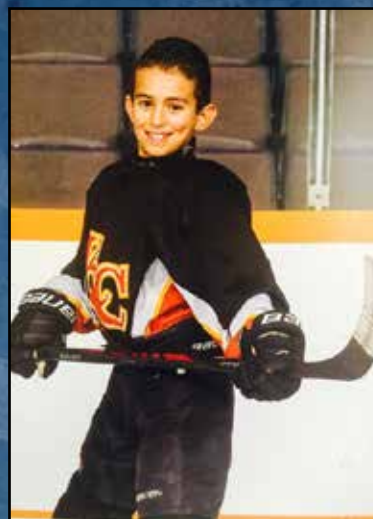
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Gold Medal Winner [QEMHW 2016]

OMAR EL HARATI



Age: 9 Grade: 4

Current Team:
KC Vipers

Number of Years Played: 3

Usual Position:
Centre/right wing

Favourite Hockey Team:
Washington Capitals

Favourite Hockey Player:
Alexander Ovechkin

Who is your Role Model: My Mom & Dad

Other Hobbies / Interests: Lacrosse, figure skating, swimming & gymnastics

Favourite Hockey Memory: Winning gold at minor hockey week 2016!

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Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

ATOM AVALANCHE



SW601 - CONFED ATOMIC ATOMS

Players: ERIC FASH | LACHLAN GORNY | OLIVER HALL | CHRISTOPHER JIANG
EVAN KAPANEN | GUYEON RACHEL KIM | JACOB LAWRYSYN | KEIRA MAH
PATRICK NORRIS | NICOLAS ORB | ELI PARSONS | LIAM STRAIN
LILA TRAVERSE | MATTHEW ZHANG

Staff: ROB HALL | ALLAN KAPANEN | CEDAR MAH | WALTER ORB
PATRICK STRAIN | GAVIN TRAVERSE

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

ATOM BLACKHAWKS



SG860 - SPRUCE GROVE ATOM 7

Players: BLAKE BARON | DEVIN BARON | BRODY BARRETT | TANNER
BENNETT | ETHAN GOLKA | QUENTIN LIMOGES | DAWSON MATCHIM | VAN
NORSWORTHY | MAKAYLA PALMER | BLAKE PARSONS | MADISON PURDY
RHETT RICHEL | RYAN RICHEL | JULIEN TWETEN
AEDAN WIETERMAN | MACKENZIE WORBECK

Staff: JEFF BARON | BRANDY CARON | KENT EVANS | JASON GOLKA
PAUL LIMOGES | RANDY RICHEL | TIMOTHY WIEBE | JEFF WIETERMAN

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

ATOM BLUES



BE899 - BEAUMONT ATOM 6

Players: BRANDON ALBERT | XAVIER BANIC | REID BEAULIEU | NICHOLAS BROWN | KADYN EGGLETON | ETHAN ENGRAM | RYLEY FISHER | RYLAN FIVELAND | ZACHORY GERKE | RILEY HARNETT | LUCAS HEMMERLING | JAXON LENTZ | CARSON LEROUX | CARTER MACSWEEN | CAEL MATTIA | WILLIAM STACEY | BLAKE TATARIN

Staff: BOB BROWN | NATHAN FISHER | DEAN FIVELAND | NICK GERKE | PHILIP LENTZ | BRENT TATARIN

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

ATOM BRUINS



KC083 - KC KNIGHTS COBRAS

Players: JAYDEN AGUILAR | BRODY ANDREWS | MASON CARDINAL | CAMERON DEGUARA | JAMES HUA | JORDAN LINDO | JOHN RORY | MACDONALD PARMAN MANN | DOMINIK MARTINEC | BRYN NOSTERUD | SAWYER VIENS

Staff: CORINNE DEGUARA | RADIM MARTINEC | CAMERON NOSTERUD | JAY VIENS

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

ATOM CANUCKS



NW275 - HAWKS

Players: MAXWELL ANDERSON | MARCUS BIAGI | RONAN CARDINAL | JACOB CORBETT | NOLAN FERGUSON | DAVID HALABI | BRANDON INNES | KYLE MCARTHUR | CORBIN MOORE | LONDON MORRIS | COOPER ORRELL | ETHAN OZBEY | NOLAN PURA | DECLAN REID | GAVIN TYSON | SAM WALTER

Staff: LEITH CARDINAL | DON MCARTHUR | DARREN MORRIS | TAYLOR ORRELL | DENIZ OZBEY | DANIEL REID | GLENN TYSON

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

ATOM CAPITALS



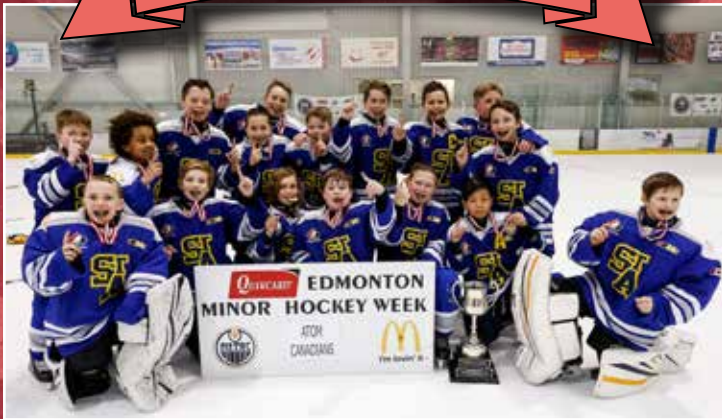
SA742 - ST ALBERT ATOM 6B

Players: HAYDEN BALDASSARRE | LUKAS BEBLOW | OWEN BROWN | MARC CHOINIÈRE | ERIK DAVIS | CALEB FORREST | ADAM HARROUN | BENJAMIN HEALEY | WILLIAM KUNCIO | CARTER LAFRAMBOISE | MATTHEW MCLEOD | SULLIVAN OGNOSKI | JARET PROULX | JOSHUA ROWSWELL-KENNEDY | BOSTON ST. MARTIN

Staff: JOHN BALDASSARRE | KEVIN BROWN | MEL KUNCIO | DAVID LAFRAMBOISE

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

ATOM CANADIANS



SA731 - ST ALBERT ATOM 1A

Players: JAXON BUCHANAN | COHEN DAOUST | TATE DE BRUIJN | JAKE GIACOBBO | TY GORDON | QUINN HOFFMAN | DYLAN KARRAN | KARSON KERBES | MATTHEW KONDRO | NATHAN LAFORGE | EVAN LEUNG | WILL LUTIC | TURNER MCINTYRE | TEO PISANI | OWEN PROHAR | LUKE PROSTEBBY | EVAN SCHULHA

Staff: CARSON FLEMING | GEOFF GIACOBBO | BRENT KONDRO | STEVE LAFORGE | FERNANDO PISANI

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

ATOM DEVILS



SW662 - SWAT ICE WOLVES

Players: KRISHAN ABELA | SETH BAKER | JAEHOON CHOI | ETHAN DEKKER | OLIVER GIBSON | PAYTON GJESDAL | BRECKAN HICKLING | KIERAN KITTINGHAM | JAMIE LUTZ-BERUBE | ZACHARY OLSEN | WYATT POULSEN | BRIANNA RINGUETTE | BEN STAINES | REID TRUDGEON | ALEX WESTERGARD | MAX YASINSKI

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Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM
ATOM DUCKS



NW278 - HAWKS

Players: AMIR ALKAROUT | WYATT ASHTON | CIRIL BERNARD | JESSY CONNOLLY | KAREEM DAHROUGE | ASHRAF EL-HAYOUNI | AYDEN GRAHAM
GABRIEL HELLYER | ZACHARY LABRIE | DILLAN LAFRENIERE
ZACHARY MARR | LOGAN MCGILLIVRAY | SKYLER MULHOLLAND
DOYLE PAUFLER | HUAN ICARUS SAM | CONNER STROF
Staff: AHMED ALKAROUT | CHRIS LABRIE JOHN MCGILLIVRAY | MICHAEL STROF

Gold Medal Winner
DOYLE PAUFLER



Age: 9 Grade: 4
Current Team: NW 278 Hawks
Number of Years Played: 6
Usual Position: Forward
Favourite Hockey Team: Edmonton Oilers
Favourite Hockey Player: Jordan Eberle
Who is your Role Model: My Dad
Other Hobbies / Interests: Soccer & reading
Favourite Hockey Memory: Winning minor hockey week this year & scoring my first hat-trick in the semi-final game!

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM
ATOM JETS



SG857 - SPRUCE GROVE ATOM 4

Players: KAYL AMBROSE | COOPER BOURKE | BRAYDEN BYERS | CARTER DAVIDSON | OLIVIA DAVIDSON | JORDON EVERETT | JACE FRICKER | CALDER GAZLEY-REYNOLDS | ETHAN HAUG | SAWYER KING | ROWAN MCDONALD
TY MIDDLETON | TRESTYN NESS-MUNRO | WILLIAM PIDHAICHUK | HAYDEN PRIEBE | JESSE STRINGER | COHEN SUTHERLAND | OWEN ZACHARKO
Staff: RYAN BOURKE | STEVEN DAVIDSON | JASON FRICKER | CHAD HAUG
TROY MCDONALD | SHELDON NESS-MUNRO | DAN ZACHARKO

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM
ATOM KINGS



EG698 - ICE CRUSHERS

Players: ATLEY BRIX | MALEIGHA BUFFALO | KACEY ERICSON | MADISON FOREST | GABRIELLE FOWNES | KHADIJA HAQUE | ISABEL IRWIN-WALKER
KATE-LYNN MARKINE | LAUREN MCGILL | BRIANNE MORIN | JOSEPHINE CHARLIZE NICKERSON | EMILY RIDYARD | MELINA SOOSAY
OLIVIA TAIT | REESE TRENDEL
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Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM
ATOM FLAMES



NE208 - EAGLES

Players: TYLER BENNETT | TIAGO CANOA | SETH FULTON | SEAN LOUGH
DYLAN MISHIO | NICHOLAS NAHKURI | BRONSON PEARSON | ALEX SAVARD
WYATT TEED | TYLER THOMSON | AIDEN VAN DYCK | RYAN WEAVER
TAYO YACHIMEC | AUSTIN ZAPLOTINSKY

Staff: MYRON BENNETT | TERRY MISHIO | STEVEN NAHKURI
SCOTT THOMSON | DALE WEAVER | JAKE WOODS

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM
ATOM FLYERS



SW597 - CONFED RAPTORS

Players: TANNER COLE | SPENCER DENEVE | BRODY GOODWIN
QUINN GOPLIN | DENAE HORDAL | XANDER LEPP | GREGORY LI
CARTER MACCORMACK | DAVID PAN | ETHNE RIKSTAD |
AIDEN RIKSTAD | CARSYN SIMS | TY TULIK

Staff: ROB COLE | TREVOR GOPLIN | SHANE HORDAL | BRETT RIKSTAD
JAYSON SIMS | SHANE TULIK

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM
MAPLE LEAFS



SA734 - ST ALBERT ATOM 2B

Players: PIERCE BOKENFOHR | CONNOR BROEKSMAN | RUNE CARLSON
DARIUS CRANDELL | RYLAN CROZIER | NICHOLAS HAMILL | TRISTAN
HWANG | COLE KARAKI | ETHAN KASHMAN | GRAYSON MALONEY
COOPER MICHAEL | RYLAND MONETTE | ETHAN POECKENS | TRENNEN
REDLICK | CORBYN SYBULKA | KOEN WEBBER

Staff: MURRAY BOKENFOHR | JEFFREY CARLSON | HENRY HWANG | MARK
KARAKI | BRIAN MALONEY | WADE MICHAEL | DARREN POECKENS

Gold Medal Winner
KOEN WEBBER



Age: 10 **Grade:** 5

Current Team:
St. Albert Charge

**Number of
Years Played:** 6

Usual Position:
Goaltender

**Favourite
Hockey Team:**
Detroit Red Wings

**Favourite
Hockey Player:**
Henrik Lundqvist

Other Hobbies / Interests: Golf & baseball

Favourite Hockey Memory: Winning the 2017 minor
hockey week!

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

ATOM OILERS



SA735 - ST ALBERT ATOM 3A

Players: JUSTIN DEGNER | CASSIUS DEVLIN | MICHAEL ERICKSON | NATHAN HENDRICKS | TY HUDEC | TAYSEN HUMPHRIES | MATTHEW KAZURO | THOMAS KENT | HAYDEN LEBLANC | LOGAN LESSARD | COOPER MCLAUGHLIN | ZENON POULIN | DYLAN SCHOPPER | SEBASTIAN SMITH | LUCAS SMYTH | ZACHARY ZELINSKI

Staff: DALE DEGNER | ANDY DEVLIN | SHELDON HENDRICKS | TODD HUDEC | MIKE KAZURO | PAT LESSARD | SEAN SMYTH | DARYL ZELINSKI

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

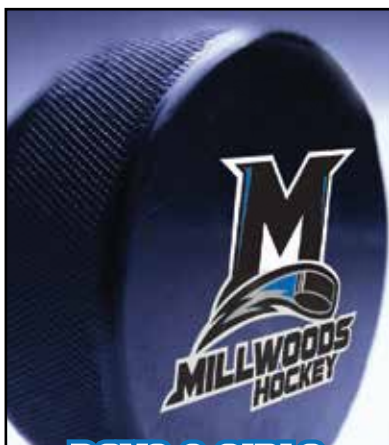
ATOM PENGUINS



SW591 - CONFED KINGS

Players: KALER ASHTON | GILBERT BEDARD | KAYDEN BEMISTER | TYE GEHLERT | ANDREW HALE | LEYTON HANNEMAN | ZACHARIAH HOFFMAN | NOLAN HUCKABAY | EVAN LEBLANC | JACK MIDDLETON | TYSIAH MILLS | LUKAS MOTYKA | COLE RUFF | MICHAEL RUSSELL | ALEX WHIDDEN

Staff: VICTOR ASHTON | JAMES HUCKABAY | TREVOR MILLS | JEFFREY MOTYKA | GARRETT WHIDDEN



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Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

ATOM SENATORS



SE425 - MILLWOODS RAIDERS

Players: JAKOB BENTEAU | CALLEM BURDEN | MATTHEW DYCK | RILEY GUINEZ | NICOLAS JOHNSTON | MADDOX KANEDA | LUKAS KOLOSA | DAVID LANE | TRISTAN MACDONALD | SEAN MCCARTHY | KYE MURPHY RILEY | PURDUE | EVAN RICHMOND | KAI STOTHART | JASON WALIA | GILBERT WEEKES

Staff: BLAIR BENTEAU | SCOTT BURDEN | DOUG LANE | MICHAEL MCCARTHY | MICHAEL MURPHY

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

ATOM RED WINGS



NW352 - WHITEMUD WEST

Players: DYLAN ARNTZEN | CARTER BEUERLEIN | CAYDEN BOYCE
CAIRO BRANDT | JESSE COX | JESSE DIKA | DOMINIC EVANS | GREYSON
FELZIEN TYLER HENRY | SEBASTIAN HORCICA | FAITH HUTCHINSON
FREDERICK LOEFFLER | OWEN MACLEOD | CARSON MCDUGALL
NATHANIEL NGAI | CAELAN YAVIS

Staff: JUSTIN COX | DAVID EVANS | BEN HORCICA | DAVID LUST
CHRISTOPHER ROMBOUGH | RYAN YAVIS

Gold Medal Winner SEAN MCCARTHY



Age: 9 **Grade:** 4

Current Team:
Mill Woods Atom Raiders

Number of Years Played: 6

Usual Position:
Defence

Favourite Hockey Team:
Chicago Blackhawks

Favourite Hockey Player:
Jonathan Toews

Who is your Role Model:
Mr. Piche, my teacher in grade 3. He is kind & funny!

Other Hobbies / Interests:
Lacrosse, ball hockey & soccer

Favourite Hockey Memory: Winning gold in the final at minor hockey week! We were losing 2-0 (end of the 1st), down 2-1 (end of the 2nd), and fought back to win 5-3!

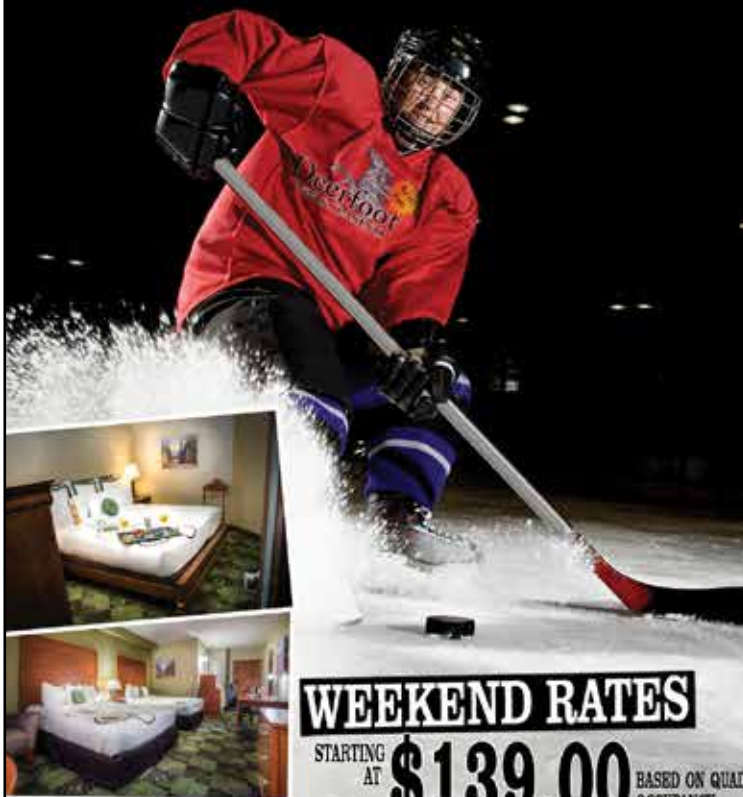
hockey

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Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

PEEWEE CAMERON



NW279 - HAWKS

Players: KEENAN BAST | QUINTON BROWN | JACOB CANNON | CHASE CORMIER | BEN DANARD | TYLER ELLIOTT | BENJAMIN HALL | JORDYN HUTTON | TYLER KRANKOWSKY | JARED LAMMIMAN | GABRIEL NEFF-TAYLOR | AVERY OZBEY | BRODY PANICH | KAYDIN SHIVJI | CONNER TYSON | ETHAN WEATHERBEE | SAM YIP

Staff: RYAN BAST | MIKE CANNON | JASON CORMIER | DARREN HUTTON | TYLER MAKEPEACE | KIM YIP

Gold Medal Winner JACOB CANNON



Age: 11 Grade: 6

Current Team:
Hawks Athletic Club

Number of Years Played: 6

Usual Position:
Forward

Favourite Hockey Team:
Edmonton Oilers!!!

Favourite Hockey Player:
Connor McDavid

Who is your Role Model:
Connor McDavid :)

Other Hobbies / Interests:
Soccer, baseball & camping

Favourite Hockey Memory:
When I scored my first hat-trick!

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

PEEWEE CLAGGET



BE901 - BEAUMONT PEEWEE AA

Players: ASHTON ANDRUS | CARSON BRISSON | CARSON CAIRNS | MARKO DJORDJEVIC | MITCHELL FORCHUK | BENJAMIN HOBDA | AUSTIN MACDONALD | RYDER MATTER | HUNTER MURPHY | RYDER PONTO | WARREN ROBERTS-LEE | LUKE ROTHFOS | TY SAUER | JAKE SLOAN | ISAAC SMITH | BRANDAN TRONCHIN | CAMERON VILLETARD | KOHL WEDMAN

Staff: RICHARD BRISSON | COLIN CEULEMANS | TREVOR MATTER | MARK ROTHFOS | DARIN SAUER

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

PEEWEE DALY



SA764 - ST ALBERT PEEWEE 7B

Players: NICKY BEATTIE | BROCK BENNER | ETHAN COLLIER | THOMAS DIEDERICHS | JOSIAHS GEBRIEL | NOLAN HANSON | WILLIAM HARGREAVES | TYLER KRAGNES | JAKOB MITCHELL | JOSHUA PENGELLY | MATTHEW PERREAULT | TYLER SIMS | JAMIE SMID | JORDAN STAWIARSKI | NICO VAN BERKEL | BRADY WEST | TREVOR WOOLGER

Staff: CORY BEATTIE | NEIL BENNER | BARRY COLLIER | DARREN HANSON | RYAN HEMBLY | MARK MITCHELL | BRAD SMID | CRAIG WOOLGER

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

PEEWEE DUNNIGAN



EG700 - STORM

Players: LOGAN BASTERASH | MAYA BEZUBIAK | EMMA DREVER | ATLEIGH FUHR | KASEY GANSKE | SAMANTHA HICKEY | AVERY KENDALL | MICHELA NACCARATO | NOÉMIE ROY | SYDNEY RUSEL | MADILYNN SCHIILE
MADELINE STOIK | PAIKEA WALL | DEKLYNN WOITAS | RHEA WRIGHTSELL

Staff: DANIEL BASTERASH | SCOTT BEZUBIAK | LEAH CAVANAGH | JASON FUHR | CHAD GANSKE | JASON KENDALL | CATHERINE KENDALL

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

PEEWEE DUTCHAK



SA750 - ST ALBERT PEWEE 1B

Players: JONATHAN BALLOS | LUCAS CADGER | MATTHEW CESARZ | JET DEVLIN | MATTHEW GOMEZ | JOHN NOAH HANEY | CONNOR HIGGINS
SEBASTIAN COLE LAURENT | HUNTER LUBINIECKI | REECE MCDONALD
SHADI NALLY | JAKE OSOLINSKY | LOGAN PAQUETTE | KYLE SHUYA | TODD WHITNEY | CARTER WILL | EVAN ZAZULAK

Staff: ANDY DEVLIN | SHELDON GOMEZ | JOHN HANEY | RUSSELL LAURENT
MARK LUBINIECKI | LEIGH MCDONALD | DALE NALLY
GREG OSOLINSKY | JASON ZAZULAK

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

PEEWEE JEX



SA758 - ST ALBERT PEWEE 5A

Players: GRAYSON ALBRECHT | ANGELO AMENDOLA | BLAKE BROWN
ROWAN CAKE | JOSEPH CALLBECK | KEIRAN CROTTY | DOMINIC HALTERMAN
TYSON REES | LINCOLN RITTER | WILLIAM ROGERS | JOHN SHIELDS
BRAYDEN SPAANS | BRETT STEVENSON | ATHAN TYLIAKOS | NOAH WASYLYSHYN

Staff: CORY ALBRECHT | GIUSEPPE AMENDOLA | KEVIN BROWN | PHILIP CALLBECK | ROBERT REES | TONY SPAANS | DEAN TYLIAKOS

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

PEEWEE MCKINLEY



SG871 - SPRUCE GROVE PEWEE 6

Players: CALEB BEAULIEU | BRUCE BONNELL | JAMES BROWN | PRESTON BROWN | BRADLEY FOBES | LAYNE HALCROW | BROCK HENRY | KAYDEN HILL
LYDIA KRAHN | DOMINIC LAFRENIERE | MARCUS MCDONALD | CHARLOTTE SECOND | BRODY SMALLBROOK | RYDER ST.PIERRE | SLOAN SVENDSEN

Staff: TRAVIS CHITTICK | JASON FRICKER | JAMES HILL | SEAN KRAHN
PETER LAFRENIERE | TROY MCDONALD | DAVE SMALLBROOK

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

PEEWEE FEADER



BE906 - BEAUMONT PEEWEE 5

Players: COLTON ADAMS | TANNER ANDRINGA | JULIEN BEAULIEU | XAVIER BETZ
MATTHEW BRETON | KELSEN CANADA | ASHLYN CEULEMANS | CONNER CHRISTON
DEKLIN HAGLUND | FAWWAZ HAMEED | PARKER KADATZ | WILSON LABRECQUE
SCOTT MACDOUGALL | JAROD MARANAN | JAKE MOUNSEY | JAMES NIELSEN
NOAH POMEROY | JORDAN SAUCIER | BENJAMIN TURRIFF | KEANAN WHITEBEAR

Staff: ALLAN ANDRINGA | JEB BETZ | COLIN CEULEMANS
AKKEL NIELSEN | MATTHEW WHITE

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

PEEWEE HAMILTON



SW602 - CONFED GENERALS

Players: NOLAN BAGGS | CHEYANNE BARLISZEN | ETHAN DEY | ZACHARY
HARTUM | SEAN HOSSACK | SHAAN JUDGE | BREN KLEIN | EVAN KRISCHKE
SAM LEE | ERIKA LIND | DANIEL LOPEZ PETERSON | JOSHUA LOSING
KIERAN MACQUEEN | TY NGO | LIAM NOADE | ANNA POOLE | KAI STROBL
OWEN THOMPSON | STEPHEN TOMICH | JACK WAGNER

Staff: KEON COLLETT | CRAIG HOSSACK | ERIC KLEIN | GRANT LOSING
JOSEPH NGO | PHIL THOMPSON | BRUCE WAGNER

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

PEEWEE NITZ



SW607 - CONFED ICE VIPERS

Players: NICHOLAS ALLAN | TUCKER CIONA | JACK CRUICKSHANK
MARCUS CRUMB | RONAN DONNELLY | ALEXANDER FAIR | ARNAV GUPTA
DYLAN HARVEY | EVAN HARVEY | YOUNGJIN KIM | OWEN LAPIERRE
COLBY LAWRYSYN | HEASUNG LEE | ALEXANDER MELVIN | ZANDER PAYNE
JACKSON SAVAGE | MALACHI TEMBELE | EMILY VEALE | ERIC WASYLYSHYN

Staff: JASON CRUMB | DAVID DONNELLY | NATHANIAL FAIR
JASON HARVEY | DANIEL MELVIN | RAY SAVAGE

Gold Medal Winner TY NGO



Age: 12 Grade: 7

Current Team:
SW 602 Confed Generals

Number of Years Played: 8

Usual Position:
Defence

Favourite Hockey Team:
Edmonton Oilers

Favourite Hockey Player:
Andrew Cogliano

Who is your Role Model:
My Parents

Other Hobbies / Interests:
Soccer, skiing & football

Favourite Hockey Memory:
Winning back to back gold medals in QEMHW!

Gold Medal Winner TUCKER CIONA



Age: 11 **Grade:** 6
Current Team:
 SW Confed Ice Vipers
Number of Years Played: 3
Usual Position:
 Left wing
Favourite Hockey Team:
 Edmonton Oilers & Chicago Blackhawks
Favourite Hockey Player:
 Jonathan Toews

Who is your Role Model: My older brother
Other Hobbies / Interests: Art, reading & swimming
Favourite Hockey Memory: Winning minor hockey week and getting my first goal!

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM PEEWEE RAINS



SP818 - SHERWOOD PARK PEEWEE 4

Players: JAYDEN ACHEMICHUK | KADEN BANDURA | MARC CORPE | KIERAN CORREIA | DAMYN DYRLAND | PATRICK GOLIGHTLY | MALCOLM GROVE | JACOB HARRINGTON | TYSON LAU | LOGAN LAVENDER | ZACHARY LESTER | LUKE MAILLET | BRETT MOCHULSKI | CARTER PATTERSON | BENJAMIN PROSEILO HAYDEN REMEIKA | TRISTAN ROPER | GRAYSON TOMNUK | RYDER WAGNER
Staff: MICHEAL ACHEMICHUK | BRETT CORPE | GEORGE CORREIA | DWAYNE HARRINGTON | COLIN PATTERSON | SEAN REMEIKA | MIKE ROPER

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM PEEWEE SOLLANYCH



BE905 - BEAUMONT PEEWEE 4

Players: LEVI ANDERSON | MATTHEW BRETON | MASON CAMPBELL | XAVIER DIBBEN | ANAYA HEATLEY | ETHAN HEMMERLING | KYLE JONES | SPENCER LAVIGNE | EVAN LESSARD | CARTER MCDONALD | JACK NEUSTAETER | KRISHDEV NIJJAR | LOGAN ORR | ZACHARY PERRIN | MATIS ROCHON | JOSHUA SEIDE DYLAN STURLEY | ALEXANDER TYTLER | AUSTIN ZDEBIAK-TYTLER
Staff: KENT HAMILTON | CRYSTAL HEMMERLING | DANIEL LESSARD | TREVOR NARRAWAY | JASON NEUSTAETER | KELLY SEIDE

Gold Medal Winner JACOB HARRINGTON



Age: 11 **Grade:** 6
Current Team:
 Sherwood park
Number of Years Played: 4
Usual Position:
 Right Wing
Favourite Hockey Team:
 Montreal Canadiens
Favourite Hockey Player:
 Connor McDavid
Who is your Role Model:
 My Mom & Dad
Other Hobbies / Interests:
 Football & playing with my dog
Favourite Hockey Memory:
 Getting to play five on five & four on four in overtime

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

PEEWEE SANREGRET



KC092 - KC ST. CHARLES BULLDOGS

Players: JUSTIN BARABASH | JACKSON BENNETT | JEAN ALEXANDRE BUJOLD | ANTUN DUZIC | MUSLIM ELMAHDI | DEZMOND ESTRADA
RAYMOND HAN | MOHAMMED HAYMOUR | AHMED JOMHA
OMAR JOMHA | KALEB KOSKA | JONAH OSWALD | ALI RAMAHI
JAKE REDHEAD | LOGAN USHKOWSKI

Staff: CHAD BARABASH | SHERI BENNETT | HAJ JOMHA | RORY KOSKA
JOE LUONG | JASON USHKOWSKI

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

PEEWEE SHAVE



SA751- ST ALBERT PEEWEE 2A

Players: NATE ANDERSON | BEN BELYEA | NIKOLAI BELYEA | TY BERTHIER
AYDEN CACCIA | ADAM CHIN | COLE CLOUTIER | ZACHARY HAIGHT
NATHAN HART | ZACHARY KARRAN | SAMUEL MCLENAGHAN | RIELLY MULZET
ETHAN PODOLAS | PAIGE RING | JACK ROBERTSON | CONNOR ZAHARICHUK

Staff: DAVID ANDERSON | KEITH BELYEA | ADRIAN CACCIA
GARY CLOUTIER | BRENT ELASCHUK

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

PEEWEE VIGNEAU



KC090 - KC ST. CHARLES REBELS

Players: KADEN BEARD | CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL | SAMUEL CAMPBELL
CALEB CHRIST | JORDAN DICK | NICHOLAS HAKES | TANNER HILLABY
SPENCER LUU | ANDREW MILLAR | HUNTER NYLAND | AYDEN REEVES
CARTER ROVERE | BRENDAN TARKOWSKI | ETHAN TSE | ROBERT YOUNG

Staff: RON BEARD | TYSON CHRIST | JASON DICK | JASON MILLAR
SIMON TSE | ROBERT YOUNG

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

PEEWEE ZAOZIRNY



SW606 - CONFED WOLVERINES

Players: SAMUEL BROWN | ADDISON CHEN | MATTHEW COX | CONNOR
CUNNINGHAM | RONAN DONNELLY | BENJAMIN GINGRAS | DREW KLEIN
MADDIX PERRY | BRAEDEN PIERCE | LUKE ROBINSON | ALEXANDER SIHOTA
GRAYDIE SNOWDEN | QUINN STESSUN | AIDAN WANG | AIDEN WEINKAUF
IBRAHEEM WEIS | CALEB YOUNG

Staff: GARY CUNNINGHAM | BRIAN (ROB) GINGRAS | ERIC KLEIN
TOM PIERCE | SCOTT WEINKAUF | TIM WEIS

Spotlight on a Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

BY LEE MANNING

SE486 - SEERA STORM

It was a Cinderella story. It just wasn't supposed to happen. The Seera Storm came into Quickcard Minor Hockey Week in 6th place out of eight teams, with just two wins in the second round of play. The team could be characterized as a group that didn't work very hard, and took way too many penalties. It looked like it would be a quick two games and out. But the plucky band of 13 and 14-year-olds defied the odds and emerged victorious. Here is their story.

The Storm started Minor Hockey Week with a 4-0 loss to the other Seera team. It was a low point. The team came in riding a two game losing streak and laid an egg. Morale was low. Confidence was non-existent. Then fortune smiled upon them. They would play the 5th place team in game two.

The Storm had matched up well with Sherwood Park throughout the season. When Sherwood Park used their affiliate players they usually won. When Sherwood Park played with their regular roster, the Storm usually won. Teams are not allowed to make use of affiliate players in Minor Hockey Week. Advantage Storm. It was a hard battle, but Brendan Manning and Trevor Nordholm had two point games, and Furqan Khawaja recorded his first career hat trick to power the Storm past Sherwood Park by a score of 5-2.

Up next would be the KC Sabres, a team that had already beaten the Storm twice this season, by a combined score of 15-8. With a 5-1-0 record in the second round, KC was a favourite to win Minor Hockey Week. From the start it was a physical battle. KC jumped out to an early lead in the first period on a goal from Josh Donald. The Storm kept their composure and team captain Lucas Ransome led the charge with gritty defensive play in front of his net, blocked shots, and a never say die attitude. Before long it was obvious that something was changing. The Storm were making the extra effort to get sticks and bodies into shooting lanes, to clear players from in front of their net, to clear rebounds. It looked like the perfect Storm, and Gurbaksh Jhajj tied the game in the second period. Going into the third, Trevor Nordholm put his team up early on a feed from Brendan Manning. Josh Donald netted a second goal to tie it for the Sabres, and then with just four minutes to go Rayyan Khan scored the game winner for the Storm. Gurinder Viridi was sensational between the pipes, turning aside 24 of the 26 shots he faced.

The Storm were going to the gold medal game! There was a set back however. In the final minute of the game there was a skirmish at the side of the Storm net. When the dust had settled, one player from each team was ejected for fighting. The Storm would play their final game without their leading scorer.

Meanwhile, the SW539 Oil Kings were having a bit of a fantasy run of their own. They entered Minor Hockey Week dead last in their division. They lost their first game to the SW538 Oil Kings, then went on to beat NW319 and Spruce Grove to get to the final. The Storm and the Oil Kings were evenly matched. It wasn't an easy contest for either club. At the end of it all, Happy Mander scored the game winner for the Storm as they played to a 3-1 victory.

My younger brother won Minor Hockey Week back in about 1982. It's one of those treasured memories for him. He will never forget it. You can't go through an experience like this without being changed. Since Minor Hockey Week, the Storm have been a much more confident and hard working bunch. Their record so far in round three is 1-3-0, but they have been battling through a nasty flu that is making its way through the team, and they have been in every game until lack of bodies translates into lack of energy and they get swept away with the tide. Most importantly, the players of Seera Storm seem to have learned what it means to be a team. That every players' "best" does not look the same, but that every player can contribute to the success of the team in some way. It really is a fairytale ending.

BANTAM ATKINSON



Players: RYAN BORDEN | BRIAN DELOS SANTOS | SHAYE (AYDEN) GANAM | GURBAKSH JHAJJ | SARB KANG | RAYYAN KHAN | FURQAN KHAWAJA | ISHWANT KLER | HAPPY MANDER | BRENDAN MANNING | JOSHUA MEDLEY | TREVOR NORDHOLM | NAREN RAJ | LUCAS RANSOME | GURINDER VIRDI

Staff: SHAYE GANAM | LEE MANNING | GREG MEDLEY



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Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

BANTAM BARNES



NW314 - WHITEMUD WEST

Players: ETHAN BACCHUS | ISAAH BADGER | SHELDON GALESCHUK | EVAN HALL | CARTER LAI | LIAM LANGILLE | ALEXEI LETENDRE | ALEXANDER NADON | JAKE O'BRIEN | BRADEN O'GRADY | SAM OSHRY | JASPER PINTO | AARON SCHMIDT | ETHAN SHEBANSKY | ZACKARY SNOW | ALEXANDER STEWART | CARSON WILSON

Staff: DAVID GALESCHUK | JOEL O'BRIEN | MARK O'GRADY | CLIVE OSHRY | RAY SCHMIDT

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

BANTAM A - FEMALE



SA779 - ST ALBERT FEMALE BANTAM 1

Players: SAMANTHA BOUTIN | ELLA BROEKSMAN | BROOKE DOYLE | MEAGAN EDWORTHY | MIA EWASHKO | JULIANNA GIACOBBO | LAYLA HOOD | RAELEEN JANSSEN | CHIARA KNOWLTON | JADEN LEUNG | SOPHIE MCKINLEY | ANNIKA NESET | JULIANN SHERBETH | MARISSA STEINKE | ALEENA TAYLOR | EMILY TEWFIK | SYKORA THORNTON

Staff: RICK EWASHKO | GEOFF GIACOBBO | YE LEUNG IAN STEINKE | RYAN TAYLOR

Gold Medal Winner ANNIKA NESET



Age: 14 Grade: 9

Current Team:
St. Albert Female Bantam A Blades

Number of Years Played: 11

Usual Position:
Left wing

Favourite Hockey Team:
Edmonton Oilers

Favourite Hockey Player:
Connor McDavid

Who is your Role Model: My brother, Mattias

Other Hobbies / Interests: Reading, badminton & hanging out with friends

Favourite Hockey Memory: Playing in the QEMHW final six times and winning gold four times. Every final has been exciting!

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

BANTAM BUTLER



SE480 - SEERA ICEMEN

Players: ERIK ANDERSEN | JOSHUA BENTLEY | NICHOLAS BOYD | AUSTIN CHABOYER | FELIX DUFOUR | CARSON EDDY | KAI FRANCHUK | JUSTIN HUBLER | KIEV KINESHANKO | OWEN LAI | EMERIC LEPINE | JEFFERSON MAMUAD | AARON MAURICIO | AUSTIN MCGINITIE | BENJAMIN REES | NATHAN ROBINSON | MATTHEW SCHMIDT | RYAN SHELAST | ZACH VANDEKERCKHOVE | SCOTT WILSON | NOLAN WYATT | ALEX ZINGER

Staff: MATT LISTER | DALE MCGINITIE | SCOTT MISSERE

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

BANTAM DERMOTT



SW532 - SWZ OIL KINGS

Players: JACKSON ALLARD | LOGAN BAICH | NOAH BEDARD | ZAYD BIBERDORF ANTON CHAW | WARREN CLI | AYDEN FULCHER | JARED GORDON | MARK HOSSACK | RUSSELL JOHNSON | QUINN LUND | IAN MIN-ROBERTS | CARTER OLTMANNS | BRADLEY PROBERT | TANNER SHANDRO | JEREMY TESSARIERIC TOUW | RYAN WASYLYSHYN

Staff: ERIC BAICH | STEVEN HORNER | CRAIG HOSSACK | BARRY DEE JOHNSON | DARREN OLTMANNS | ALAN TOUW

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

BANTAM B - FEMALE



SG873 - SPRUCE GROVE FEMALE BANTAM 1

Players: SIERRA EMILY CAMPBELL | JENNA CHADWICK | JENNA ENRIGHT | ALYSSA EVANS | GABRIELLA HARPER | TIANNA HOLLOWAY | VICTORIA KIBBLEWHITE | ANNIKA KWASNYCIA | ASHLEY MILLER | BETHANY MUSTUS | LEXA NIELSEN | JOSIE PAANANEN | SHAYLA PLANTE | HALLE QUENNEVILLE | ALISSA REED | BETHANY SANIGA | ABBYGAIL SHEELER | CHLOE YELLOWBIRD

Staff: GRANT CAMPBELL | DARREN HOLLOWAY | CRAIG KIBBLEWHITE | DARREN KWASNYCIA | ASHLEY MCPHERSON | ALLAN PAANANEN

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

BANTAM FREDERICK



SA770 - ST ALBERT BANTAM 2A

Players: ETHAN BANGS | JORDAN BURGARDT | JOHN CAHOON | SEBASTIEN DUBOIS | DYLAN ESPETVEIDT | BRYDON FOSTER | HOLDEN GIMBEL | JACOB HEALEY | MATHEW HOGUE | RAFFERTY LOOK | AIDAN MCKAY | MASON MILDENBERGER | AUSTYN MORIN | LIAM O'NEILL | DONOVAN PAULSON | GRAYDON RYERSE | TALIN THERA | MATTHEW WOLFE | DYLAN YAKIELASHEK

Staff: RONALD BURGARDT | DENIS DUBOIS | KEVIN ESPETVEIDT | TERENCE LARSON | KEVIN MCKAY | PAT MILDENBERGER | HEATH RYERSE | DAVID YAKIELASHEK

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Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

BANTAM FYSH



SW537 - SWZ OIL KINGS

Players: LORENZO BADIOLA | REECE BULL | SHAWN CROKE | CALLE ERICKSON
JOSHUA GARTLY | CONNOR HALL | CALEB HOLMBERG | CARTER KASOWSKI
EVAN KING | BRANDON LEMESHKO-ROBINSON | KADEN MARTIN | KAI
MCCURDY | GAGE PHILIPPON | GURDEEP ROMAN RANDHAWA | DANIEL
SCHELL | MATTHEW SCHULLER | ETHAN HAISU WANG | ALEXANDER ZYGUN
Staff: GLEN ERICKSON | ROBERT HALL | KEITH SCHELL | JASON SCHULLER

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

BANTAM PRUDEN



SW529 - SWZ OIL KINGS

Players: TODD BIRD | BRADLEY BUMA | ROMEO DAKURAH | BENJAMIN FERNANDEZ
| CODY FRASER | LUKUS GRAHAM | KYLE KOBİ | AYDEN KOSSEY KAMINSKI |
WILLIAM LAIRD | COLE LAMONTAGNE | AUSTIN LOTHAMER | VINCE LUONG | TIM
MACLURE | ETHAN MCPHAIL | SETH MORHART | MASON REINHARDT | CRAIG
SCHNEIDER | EVAN SOMERS | EVAN THOMAS | CONNOR ZILINSKI
Staff: DARYL FRASER | DOUG LAIRD | DUSTIN LAMONTAGNE
BRAD LOTHAMER | MIKE MORHART | TIM SCHNEIDER

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

BANTAM ROSS



SG876 - SPRUCE GROVE BANTAM 3

Players: HASSAN ABOUCHAMI | KYLE DUMONT | KADEN FESER | BURKE FREELEND
JOSHUA HEBERT | TREVOR HODGINS | KADEN LANGSTAFF | NICHOLAS LAZARICK
ZACHARY MARTIN | CHASTEN MILLER | DEMITRIUS RAWLUK | WILLIAM SCHERLE
ETHAN SCREPNEK | GRAEDEN SHULE | ADAM SMITH | SAMUEL SPALDING | WYATT
STUPAR-ROBERGE | TORRIN ULMER | JACOB WILLIAMS
Staff: DARREN DUMONT | KLINT LANGSTAFF | TYLER LAZARICK | LEE MILLER
DUANE RAWLUK | CORY SCHERLE | DEAN SCREPNEK

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

BANTAM WELLS



SW535 - SWZ OIL KINGS

Players: JACK ANDERSON | JOEL CHARRON | JUSTIN CHARRON | JAMES GEBRAN
CAIN EE-HAN GODFREY | JUSTIN HEIDENREICH-KORCHINSKI | KYLE HEYSER
GIBSON JOY | MAX KONOWALEC | KIAN KYARS | JASON LOOK | QUINN LUND
STEFAN MURESAN | CARTER PEDDE | COLIN ROBSON | SPENCER SCORNAIENCHI
ETHAN HAISU WANG | LANDON WICKENBERG | EVAN WONG | KONRAD WUEST
Staff: DARREN ANDERSON | GUY CHARRON | VLAD MURESAN
MICHAEL PEDDE | DAVID ROBSON

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

MIDGET A - FEMALE



EG712 - THUNDER

Players: REBECCA CAVE | AKAYSIA JACQUELINE DAVIE | KAMILLA FERRIS | BROOKE GODIN | TALIA JOHNSON | KENDRA KOK | LINDSEY KRATKO | KENDELL LAUBER MACKENZIE LEFRESNE | NAOMI LOZINSKI | JULIE MCGOEY | EMMALIE MUSIC LAUREN PARADIS | EMMA ROPPO | SAMANTHA SMALLEY | LAUREN SOLTYS JESSICA VAN OS | LAARA WOLKOWSKI

Staff: HANK FERRIS | ROB GODIN | HEIDI JOHNSON | JERRY KOK | ROSS LAUBER LIVIA PARADIS | TIM SOLTYS | DARREN VAN OS | VICKY WHITE

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

MIDGET B - FEMALE



R1010 - ONOWAY FEMALE MIDGET 1

Players: EMILY BROWN | ERIN DEWSNAP | KAITLYN ERICK | TAYLOR FERGEL RYNAE FERGEL | TYRA HAWKINS | JENNA HOMEAK | LAYNE LINDBERG | TIARA MEIER | KATHRYN MUNT | SHAYNA NICOL | ERIKA PETRIE | JENNIFER SUTHERLAND | FAITH WILDMAN | LAUREN WYLIE | KATIE ZAFT | KYLIN ZIEMMER

Staff: ANDY FERGEL | DANIEL HOMEAK | HOPE MEIER | LIANE NICOL WARREN WYLIE | KORY ZIEMMER

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Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

MIDGET DAVIS



SP838 - SHERWOOD PARK MIDGET 2

Players: CHRISTOPHER ANDREW | KEEGAN BARTOK | KYLE COLLISON ALEXANDER FISCHER | JOHNNY GIANG | BROCK KIRKLAND | RHETT KNORR ETHAN KONOPADA | NATHAN LAMBERT | DANIEL LENNOX | JUSTIN LIPTAK RYAN MOXHAM | MATTHEW PIASETSKY | SAMUAL ROTH | ROBERT RUDD | KACEY RUSSELL | NATHAN SIEBEN | CONNOR WILLIAMSON | LUKE WIZNIAK

Staff: BRIAN BOYTANG | MARK FISCHER | JOHN HAYES | KEATON MARTIN STEVE PIASETSKY | BRENDAN PRONYSHYN | LONNIE WIZNIAK

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

MIDGET BIDEWELL



NE155 - NEZ

Players: RILEY BENIK | THEODORE CLARKE | NOLAN COGHAN
ALESSANDRO D'ANDREA | MATTHEW DWELSDORF-SZUCS | TYLER HALLDORSON
JOSHUA HARRISON | CAMERON MATTHEW | RYAN PORODO | YOUSUF RIZVI
MOHAMMED RUSSELL | MATTHEW SCHWAGER STEPHEN SEMENIUK | JESSE
SPECHT | LUKE STEWART | DRAYDEN TODD | ASHTON TREMBLAY
COLE TYMCHUK | COLE WEBBER

Staff: RAYMOND BENIK | DALE HARRISON | JASON TREMBLAY | BRIAN TYMCHUK

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

MIDGET BONNER



NE152 - NEZ

Players: TRISTEN BROWN | KRISTOPHER CAEIRO | DAVID COSTABILE | CARSON DE
JONG | WAYNE HENKE | BRENDAN HEPELL | TYLER HOEKSTRA | TYLER HUSTON
BRANDYN JURINA | COLE KREISER | MICHAEL LEMBRYK | JOSHUA LENZ | ELIJAH
MACLURE VANDENBORN | MATEO MELLO | DANE MORGENSEN | TREVOR SULLIVAN
BRODY TOMLINSON | MATTHEW WATSON TANNER ZAMZOW | DALLAS ZAWIERUCHA

Staff: MATTHEW BELEC | AUSTIN LEICHT | BROCK LYCAN
TANNER ROPCEAN | BRADLEY SAMUELSON

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

MIDGET HETCHLER



BE913 - BEAUMONT MIDGET 3

Players: EVAN AMYOTTE | DUNCAN BUTLER | BREDIN DAVIDSON | CONNOR
HESSE | JAMES JOBIN | DYLAN JURKOVICH | ADRIEN KADATZ | LIAM LOUGH
CALLUM MCFARLAND | LOGAN PROPP | PARKER RATHBURN | BRANDON
ROBBINS | CHRISTIAN SCHEERSCHMIDT | ROBBIE SCHUH | MATT SHERWOOD
MICHAEL SWIDERSKI | KEEGAN VANSTONE | RJ WHITEBEAR

Staff: DOMINIQUE AMYOTTE | DAREN HESSE | GREG PROPP
RAYMOND SHERWOOD | RYAN SWIDERSKI

Gold Medal
WINNING TEAM

MIDGET HOLT



SW545 - SWZ OIL KINGS

Players: LOGAN ARCON | JARED CHOMIN | ADAM DIAMOND | BRODY DIETRICH
SAMUEL EDWARDS | ETHAN GANGE-HARRIS | MITCHELL GRAINGER | ALEX
HERCHEN | SAM KURTZ | JOSEPH LINDENBERG | ZACHARY MACDONALD
ANTHONY MATTHEWS | NOEL NEMETH | BRETT NICHOLS | CONNOR NICHOLS
COLBY OKO | ROBERT ROMIJN | ISAAC WILLIAMS

Staff: ROB ARCON | GLENN CHOMIN | BRENT DIETRICH | MAT MATTHEWS
CAM NICHOLS | BLAIR OKO

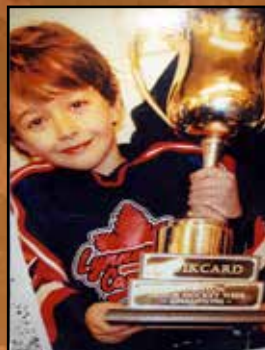
Gold Medal Winner BRANDON LAKUSTA



Age: 15 **Grade:** 10
Current Team:
 NW 233 Lightning
Number of Years Played: 8
Usual Position:
 Goaltender
Favourite Hockey Team:
 Edmonton Oilers
Favourite Hockey Player:
 Carey Price
Who is your Role Model:
 Carey Price
Other Hobbies / Interests:
 I play premier league soccer
 in the spring & summer

Favourite Hockey Memory: It was the fourth game of QEMHW 2017, down to one on one overtime & my player was tired. I asked him to pass me the puck (and go off) and another forward came flying out to the blue line where I sent the puck & he scored the winning goal!

Gold Medal Winner RYAN SMITH



Age: 15 **Grade:** 9
Current Team:
 Northwest Zone Lightning
Number of Years Played: 9
Usual Position: Defence
Favourite Hockey Team:
 Edmonton Oilers
Favourite Hockey Player:
 Ryan Smyth
Who is your Role Model:
 My Dad
Other Hobbies / Interests:
 Ball hockey, volleyball & slow pitch
Favourite Hockey Memory:
 We played five games during
 QEMHW 2017 & had five OT
 games. Winning gold felt the same
 as the first time back in 2010.
 (Pictured above) I wish I could play
 like Wayne Gretzky but at least I
 have the heart like Ryan Smyth!

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

MIDGET RUPTASH



NW233 - NWZ LIGHTNING

Players: ELI ARNSTEIN | ERIC BENKENDORF | DAVID CALAHASEN | ADAM CARSCADDEN | ETHAN CHAMNEY | JOHN CLEIREN | NICHOLAS JUDGE | CONNOR KLAK | BRANDON LAKUSTA | FRASER MACDONALD | GRAHAM MCCABE | MATTHEW MCEWEN | WARREN MCGINN | SHELDON NESTOROVICH | DAVID SEAL | RYAN SMITH | MATTHEW VEILLETTE | STEVEN VO | LIAM WHEADON | JOSHUA WUTZKE

Staff: RYAN BALLANTYNE | ROB BALLANTYNE | RYAN CHAN | KYLE DAVIDSON | ABE ELBANNA | DOMINIC HRYNIW | BRADLEY JONES | DOUGLAS JONES

Gold Medal WINNING TEAM

MIDGET TURNER



SW546 - SWZ OIL KINGS

Players: EVAN ALBERT | JONATHAN CHIOVELLI | BRENDAN COUTTS | KEVIN DE PAUW | MICHAEL DREGER-SMYLIE | ARIANNA DUNHAM | MATTHEW ELSON | BRADY FORD | ERIC HAWRELAK | JORDAN JODOIN | ERIC MAIK | LUCAS PANIAK | TAYLOR PAYNE | ROBERT PELLAND | ALI RAMJI | GAVIN SMITH | IAN SNYDER | SPENCER SOEHN | JUSTIN TUFTS

Staff: ANDREW ALBERT | MARTIN COUTTS | ANDY ELSON | DARRELL MAIK | TIM SNYDER



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