



"Witness the Power"

Coach's Corner

By Fort Frances Lakers Coach/General Manager
Wayne Strachan

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Times are busy for the organization. Player recruiting is at the top of the hockey staff's agenda, setting up camps and trying to mold the team together to improve on our playoff run. The Board of Director's are busy preparing and planning for next season. You may have seen some of the board members and volunteers at Safeway this past weekend promoting the 400 Club and season tickets. If you're out shopping next Saturday you may run into more Lakers' board members at Safeway again.

This week the board will also finalize the new sponsorship package that they will present to our many community supporters. It looks to offer our supporters and work with them to give them something back for their contribution and to say a big thank you for supporting the organization.

The team announced the signing of Rylan McKinnon a 6'1" defenseman that will offer skill and much needed punch on the back end of our power play. The staff is excited to see him in Main Camp which will take place beginning August 25th and the team will get into Exhibition play the week after that.

We also have confirmation from Fort native Jon Sinclair on his return to the team. We will be announcing the signing of him as early as next week as we need to look into a few business situations before he joins our roster. We

are still awaiting the answers of a few recruits we previously reported as it has taken longer than expected, but we are still hoping to land them as they both will add to our forward ranks. A few vets have also been contacted and we will be announcing their signings in the next few weeks.

It doesn't stop there though as President Milt Strachan and I just returned from the SIJHL Annual General Meeting on the weekend in Thunder Bay. It was entertaining to say the least at times. Expansion is looming and we could know as early as this week if the two teams that have submitted proposals will be members of the SIJHL. Our organization and the league are hoping that the last business they need to deal with gets passed smoothly as it will add to the exciting hockey that the SIJHL offers. Open many doors for the future of the league.

Fans will see a draft take place at the end of the 2010 – 2011 season. Yes the SIJHL will once again go to a draft process. You will see teams drafting 1995 born players for their future prospects. This will add a little excitement to the players of the Hockey Northwestern Ontario Branch that governs our area. I can already think off the top of my head of about four to six local players that will dawn interest around the league. It will be exciting to hopefully be a part of. A few other things that will take place once the final tweaking gets done maybe a protected list of players team's can protect and a waiver wire which will see teams having the chance to claim other player's throughout the league if they are traded for future considerations.

From the business side of things the league looks to move forward with several committees being formed to promote, market, sell and attract new fans, new teams and many good hockey players. This will be the tenth season of the SIJHL and the league and its teams look to make it the best to date.

I would also like to announce the potential of a Summer Camp on the weekend of July 16th – 18th. Lakers staff is busy planning and working with the necessary people to finalize a Summer Camp and get their top prospects in to showcase their talents to be invited to main camp. This camp will come one week after our July 10th Golf Tournament at Heron Landing Golf Course. More details will come out on the golf tourney this week. Some

possibilities are a hole in one worth \$25,000.00 and three more great prizes on the other par 3's sponsored by Sunset Country Ford. A pancake breakfast may also be offered on the morning before the golf tournament for the public to come out and enjoy. It is going to be a great day and we hope to see many people out golfing.

The team is also looking for a Director of Scouting interested applicants can go on our website www.fortfranceslakers.com for more information.

"Achieve, Believe and Succeed"

