

Nov. 29th, 2010

Fort Frances Lakers
P.O. Box 76
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“WITNESS THE POWER”

Coaches Corner:

It has been sometime since the coaches corner column has went in the Wednesday paper. Since last reporting to our local fans' we have started the month of November on a six game winning streak, lost two and now have won two straight. It has been kind of a roller coaster ride to our month. We have battled in and out of first spot in the SIJHL with three other teams, the North Stars are familiar foes to the top of the league as are the Ice Dogs from Dryden and the expansion Wisconsin Wilderness are proving to be no slouches themselves. It seems as if all four teams are willing to set forth in a battle to the end as they all continue to be competitive and knock one another off.

It is the second crucial time in the season, the first being the beginning and main camp. The December 1st cut down date is looming over and all the teams in the league have decisions to make on what direction they will take with their rosters as we go from 45 cards to 25 cards until January 10th trade deadline. Our team is busy as all teams are looking for that important piece of the puzzle that may put your team over the edge this early in the season, but there doesn't seem to be much out on the trade wire and/or teams throughout Canada don't seem willing to make that deal that will make or break their season as of Monday evening. We will continue to look, but it is looking as if we will just be trimming a few bodies rather than trimming and adding a few at this point.

We have went through a long battle of games this month with two spurts of a bunch of games in short spans seven in fifteen days and we are presently on a six game in eleven night tour. It played a toll on our bodies at the end of the last spurt of games and I am hoping our players' have learned from that and are taking care of themselves this week to compete with Dryden at home on Tuesday the 30th, Sioux Lookout on the road on Friday December 3rd and back here Saturday the 4th vs. the North Stars. Game time for all games will be 7:30 pm starts. This time of year also is hard on their minds and thought process as they all know what time of year it is and decisions need to be made. It's definitely not a good time of year for the players, but if they concentrate on what they can control they will definitely help their cause in being a part of the Lakers' organization.

Lakers' players have been out and about since Halloween. If your son or daughter was out at Tess's Kitchen Halloween festivities you would of ran into many Lakers players helping with the nightly events. They helped prepare for the Halloween bash and we thank Tess for her hospitality and all she contributes to our organization. We have also been active with

Robert Moore School and our Adopt-a-School program that sees our players go into the school and help teachers with many different aspects of their daily routines. This has been happening one day a week for a little over a month now. We have had rave reviews from the teachers and our players really enjoy going and working with the young students. We thank Vice Principal Cam Keast for his help in setting these visits up with Lakers assistant captain Morgan McNeill. More recently players have been involved with McDonald's restaurant on the Saturday the 27th where they were greeting and mingling with customers. We also participated in the Santa Clause parade on the same day. The float was decorated nicely by board members and fan club members it was a chilly night, but a fun night for all the players that participated. The players that were not on the float were moving the barricades at the numerous intersections through the parade route. So we have been out in the community giving our support where it is needed and we thank those organizations and people who have allowed our team to give back to the community that supports them.

This coming Tuesday will be our annual toy toss for the Salvation Army and United Native Friendship center. We are hoping to have many fans bring new and slightly used toys for people in need for Christmas. The fan club will be having a bake sale at the Saturday game vs. the North Stars on the 4th. Please come and support them and get some good baking for Christmas or to satisfy your sweet tooth.

BELIEVE, ACHIEVE, AND SUCCEED!

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