

Oct. 25, 2010

Fort Frances Lakers
P.O. Box 76
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 3M5



“WITNESS THE POWER”

Coaches Corner:

Fresh off a big weekend for our players' that saw us win two hard fought battles. The 1st annual showcase tournament has come and gone and the Lakers player's should be proud of themselves. We put in two solid games as a team. We didn't rely on one line, one player or one aspect of our game. It was our best two efforts of the year and a solid performance by all who played. Our goaltending was strong, our defense all played well and complimented one another and we had efforts from all lines to contribute to the two wins. Good to see from my perspective as we answered the bell in a couple pressure games.

Our efforts at the tournament and through the year have brought some special accolades for our team and players. This week our team was ranked in the top 20 of the CJHL Rankings. Although it is still young in the season and we have a long way to go until the playoff run a nice honor to obtain for this young team that is continuing to grow. Many of our players were noticed for their play at the showcase from the many scouts from NCAA schools. Lastly, Jameson Shortreed being named to represent Team Canada West at the World Junior A Challenge next month. A huge honor for this young man and he is very deserving of this announcement for all his hard work. It will be a great experience for him, a learning experience and great for our organization as it shows we care and develop our players for bigger and better futures. Jameson will represent himself, our team, the towns of Fort Frances and Emo well and this may even bring other opportunities for our players at it will be sure to attract many scouts our way once they see Jameson play.

But, with all that has happened and went on in a short four days we must remain on an even keel with our emotions, minds and remember that our hard work has helped us accomplish these feats. We must not get complacent or satisfied with what has happened in this young season and keep are nose to the grindstone to continue to grow stronger as a team. This will have to happen Tuesday and Thursday night this week as we host Dryden and Sioux Lookout respectively. Dryden has snapped their losing skid with two shut out wins and as you read this segment of coaches corner will also know the score of last night's game. Sioux Lookout is a team that is finding their own as they have replaced coaches and are starting to move in the right direction. So it will surely be a tough week for our squad and some good hockey for all to come out and watch.

On tap next month we will play eleven games, five at home in front of our great fans and six on the road against all of the SIJHL teams. It will be a good test for our team as we will see how we match up against everyone in the month.

On the team front we have made a trade since playing home last. We sent Jake Wentz to Sioux Lookout for Brad Bienvenu. Brad has come in and fit in nicely with our team. He is a good leader, brings a big physical presence and has chipped in a couple points since his arrival. We are very happy with Brad coming our way. Forward Mike Jourdain who left the team at the beginning of the month has decided to hang his skates up as his father reported to our board president last Thursday. We had a chance to move Mike to a few SIJHL teams, but he has chosen to not further his hockey career. The Lakers wish Mike the best of luck in his future.

We would like to thank all fans that participated in the winter coat toss at last evening's game. It is good to see the support for the annual coat drive of the St. Margurite d'Youville. Your support is much appreciated and both our organization and the association thank you!

Our next home game after this week will be Friday November 5th vs. the Duluth Clydesdales hope to see a big crowd as we have built a bit of a rivalry with this team and it will sure to be a entertaining game

BELIEVE, ACHIEVE, AND SUCCEED!

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