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The Game Day Page

The Mac's AAA Midget Hockey Invitational

Saturday, December 26, 2009

			V	H
1	10:00	MB #1	Vancouver Canadians	Calgary Buffaloes
2	10:00	FDB	Calgary Flames	Saskatoon Blazers
3	10:00	CENT	Tisdale Trojans	Lloydminster Bobcats
4	12:45	MB #1	UFA Bisons	St. Albert Sports Raiders
5	12:45	FDB	North Island Silvertips	Saskatoon Contacts
6	12:45	CENT	Lethbridge Y's Men Hurricanes	Prince Albert Mintos
7	15:30	MB #1	Shattuck St. Mary's	Beardy's Blackhawks
8	15:30	FDB	Okanagan Rockets	Leduc Oil Kings
9	15:30	CENT	Vancouver NW Giants	Calgary Royals
10	20:00	MB #1	Calgary Northstars	Carolina Jr Hurricanes

Female Division

F1	09:00	MB #2	Weyburn Wings	Calgary Bruins
F2	09:00	CENT	Calgary Chaos	Westman Wildcats
F3	11:30	MB #2	Swift Current Wildcats	Medicine Hat Hounds
F4	11:30	CENT	Edmonton Thunder	Saskatoon Stars
F5	14:00	MB #2	Calgary Flyers	Melville Prairie Fire
F6	16:30	MB #2	St. Albert Slash	Red Deer Chiefs



40 teams, 7 days! Please join us for the Opening Ceremonies at 7:30 pm at Max Bell Arena (Arena #1) as

we kick off the exciting 32nd Annual Mac's AAA Midget Hocket Tournament.

the **RICOH** **BREAKAWAY**

The Mac's AAA Midget 32st Hockey Invitational Newsletter

Saturday, December 26, 2009

THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Season's Greetings, everyone, and welcome to the 2009/10 edition of the Mac's Midget Hockey Tournament.

We are truly excited for today to arrive so that we can begin to showcase 40 of the best midget-aged hockey teams in North America to Calgary hockey fans over the course of the next week. We are very pleased to have three first time attendees from Canada (the North Island Silvertips, the Lloydminster Tanroc Bobcats, and the Winnipeg Wild), a first time attendee from the USA (the Carolina Jr Hurricanes), as well as fan favourite Shattuck St. Mary's, joining us at this year's Tourna-

ment. We look forward to an exciting week of competition.

An event of this magnitude cannot be run without the support of great sponsors, like our title sponsor Mac's Convenience Stores, and the dedication of the many core area volunteers who work long hours in advance of the Tournament and during the week to prepare for and stage the event. Their efforts are appreciated and do not go unnoticed.

I hope that you enjoy the week ahead. Stay safe, enjoy the game, and Experience the Mac's Experience.

- Neil Robertson,
Chairman

DID YOU KNOW?

Shaw Communications is the new broadcast partner of the Mac's Midget Hockey Tournament. Shaw will be exclusively broadcasting the Male and Female Division championship games on New Year's Day. The Female Division final airs at 10:00 am MST, and the Male Division final airs at 2:00 pm MST on your local Shaw TV channel, or catch it on channel 299 (Shaw Direct). Encore broadcasts of the games air on January 2 and January 3. Throughout the month of January, the games will also be featured in the Free Zone on Shaw Video on Demand.



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MALE DIVISION: Ferocious Clash of Midget

Legends

This holiday season has something spectacular to offer to the world of midget hockey. Seven days of wear, exhaustion, and bittersweet victory. Prepare to experience the 32nd annual Mac's AAA Midget Hockey Tournament.

The only team to come out of Manitoba, the Winnipeg Wild, is the team to beat this year with 25 wins in their 29 games. Right forward Jake Heisenger promises to be a team leader, scoring 17 goals and 19 assists in his 21 games, for a total of 36 points, and with teammates and left forwards Brett Charette at 32 points and Brendan Leipsic at 31 points, he'll have all the help he needs.

However, last year's champions, the Calgary Buffaloes, may be able to reap the benefits of home team advantage. Right forward Brett Pinder, with

24 points in his 21 games, has helped them become the most successful of the host teams, with a 10-8-6 record. The Calgary Flames follow close behind at 10-10-5, followed by the UFA Bisons at 9-11-4, who will play right winger Cody Fowlie with his 23 points. The Calgary Royals also stand strong, with a record of 7-9-6, as do the Calgary Northstars at 6-12-4. Perhaps one of these host teams will be able to bring the title home for only the second time since 1998. Alberta has the most teams in the tournament; rounding out the Alberta roster are the Red Deer Optimist Rebels, the St. Albert Raiders, and the Lethbridge Y's Hurricanes from the south and the Leduc Oil Kings and the Lloydminster Bobcats from the north.

Six teams will represent the Saskatchewan Midget AAA Hockey League (SMHL) this year, led in the standings by the Prince Albert Mintos with a record of 18-4-3. Left winger Tay-

lor Fauchoux is 7th in the league with 42 points in 25 games and left center Bryce Gervais is in 8th place with 41 points in 26 games. But the Saskatoon Contacts have managed to garner more victories, despite the team sharing 40 points. Beady's Blackhawks have the top two point scorers: Todd Fidler with 28 goals and 32 assists and left center Alex Forsberg with 19 goals and 28 assists. The Saskatoon Blazers, the Tisdale Trojans, and the Yorkton Harvest will also offer their own fierce competition this year.

The British Columbia Major Midget League (BCMML) also offers six teams to the Mac's Tournament. The Vancouver Canadians represent their greatest hope with an 18-6-2 record. But don't count out the North East Vancouver Giants, the Okanagan Rockets, or the North Island Silvertips, who have right center Evan Richardson, the leader in points for the BC league with 22 goals and 20 assists

in 22 games. The Cariboo Tigers also come out of British Columbia, along with the North West Vancouver Giants, who are in second because of a single forfeit loss.

Two American teams will participate in the tournament this year, making the hazardous trip across the Canadian border. The Shattuck St. Mary's team may prove to be bold competition, having been the tournament champions in 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2003. The Carolina Jr Hurricanes will also prove their mettle in the most popular Canadian sport.

While all of the teams have proven themselves in their own respects, the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, and any of these teams could prove to be champions. - **Matthew Ariss**



THE RICOH
BREAKAWAY

by
Indrani Roy

RICOH

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FEMALE DIVISION: All Teams Have Something to Prove

In a sport where size and raw power take a back seat to skill and speed, we are beginning to see a very reassuring trend. Women's hockey has skyrocketed in popularity over the last few decades with tectonic events like the 1990 Women's World Ice Hockey Championship and the addition of women's hockey in the 1998 Winter Olympics. As the sport gains popularity, it is events like this tournament which show who the future greats will be.

The Swift Current Wildcats return this year to attempt to reclaim their third consecutive championship this year with a .647 win percentage in the regular season. The Westman Wildcats may prove a difficult team

to beat, however, with goalie Darby Peaslee maintaining a 90.73 save percentage.

The three host teams have a lot to prove, with the top place in the Southern Alberta Division held by the Calgary Flyers and the bottom two places being held by the Chaos and the Bruins. The Medicine Hat Hounds are lucky to have left forward Karlee Odland (40 points in 20 games), left forward Erika Sowchuk (37 points in 23 games) and left forward Ashley Fitzpatrick (34 points in 24 games), the top three players in the Albertan standings, to help ease their way through this tournament. The Red Deer Chiefs round off the southern division. From Northern Alberta comes the Edmonton Thunder, who lead their

division with a record of 15-4-3, as well as the Lloydminster Steelers with 11-8-5 and the St. Albert Slash at 10-7-6.

The Saskatchewan Female Midget AAA Hockey League (SFMHL) offers six of the strongest teams to enter this year's tournament. Notre Dame leads the SFMHL with a stunning .846 win percentage, aided mostly by left forward Brienna Gillanders, who has 32 points in 13 games. The Swift Current Wildcats, the next closest contender from east of the border, has a .647 win percentage. The Weyburn Wings finish up the Saskatchewan competition in the female division with a record of 8-7-0.

With 49 goals in 12 games and three of the top six players in the league - right winger Jackie Lang, left winger Alex Yallouz, and right center Nicole Saxvik - the Vancouver Fusion, the only team from British Columbia, is a strong contender for this year's championships.

As women's hockey becomes more popular, and the players become more skilled, we will see many rising stars in this growing sport.

Matthew Ariss

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