



President's Report - 2024–2025 Season: Pat Stachniak

As the 2024–2025 season draws to a close, we find ourselves reflecting on a year marked by remarkable achievements, steadfast dedication, and a shared love of the game. From competitive triumphs to community resilience, this has been a season defined by progress and pride across every level of the Airdrie Minor Hockey Association.

U15 Female Hockey Success

Both our U15 RMFHL Tier 1 and Tier 2 teams had outstanding regular seasons, each finishing at the top of their respective divisions. Their consistent, strong performances are a testament to the commitment of our athletes and coaching staff. The Tier 1 team earned a berth at Provincials, representing AMHA with strength and determination.

Additionally, we are proud to announce that seven Airdrie athletes were selected to participate in the Alberta Challenge—an incredible honor that showcases the talent and dedication within our female hockey programs.

U18AA and Alumni Achievements

This year brought exciting recognition to our U18AA program. Abby Laporte was named the AFHL's Coach of the Year—an accolade that reflects not only her leadership but also her deep investment in the growth of our athletes. Cedar Thorburn also made headlines, earning an astonishing three league awards: Top Scorer, Top Forward, and MVP. These recognitions are a testament to the elite level of play our program continues to foster.

We were also thrilled to see four AMHA alumni currently playing at the U18AAA or prep school level selected for the Top 46 U18 Team Alberta Selection Camp. Their continued success is a proud reflection of the strong foundations built here in Airdrie.

AEHC Highlights

The Bison program continues to grow as a leader in athlete development. This year, 15 players from the 2024–2025 roster are expected to move on to Junior-level hockey—a true mark of excellence in development. The team also earned a place in the prestigious Circle K Classic, making a quarter-final appearance in a year they were not a host team.

The Avalanche emerged as one of the most improved teams in the U17AAA league. While their final record may not tell the full story, they battled through more than 20 one-goal losses, proving their competitiveness night after night. Their grit, growth, and determination were unmistakable. Meanwhile, the Xtreme advanced all the way to the finals of the prestigious NAX Tournament—The Canadian Crown, placing themselves among the top teams in the country. These aren't just appearances—we're proving that AMHA teams belong on the national stage.

The development efforts behind the scenes have been equally impressive. Over 250 dedicated off-ice team training hours were logged, amounting to roughly 4,200 individual athlete hours. Our goalie program also expanded meaningfully, with over 100 goalie-specific on-ice training sessions and 55 video analyses. In total, athletes received more than 1,000 hours of leadership training, while our coaches benefited from 120 hours of mentorship. This program continues to set the bar for excellence, accountability, and high-performance culture.

We also began preparing for the 2025–2026 season with some big moves:

We brought nine new teams into the AEHC and announced all head coaches before tryouts—a huge step forward in communication and planning.

Community, Coaching, and Operations

Across the organization, the commitment to professionalism and growth was evident. A total of 418 coaches were rostered to teams, each selected through a rigorous vetting process and supported by clinics and resources to ensure quality coaching experiences. The success of Michelle's tournament committee, which celebrated its 50th tournament in February, marked a significant milestone in AMHA's event excellence.

Player evaluations this year reached a new level of transparency and fairness, with paid evaluators ensuring objectivity at the competitive level. In total, 1,183 athletes were placed with a focus on development, balance, and competitive growth.

Operational improvements also stood out. Of the 4,000 pucks distributed throughout the season, only one-third were lost—a significant step forward in resource management. We introduced higher-quality, longer-lasting jerseys, reinforcing our commitment to sustainability. Our Safety Program continued to support athletes when they needed it most, and although the renovations at Ron Ebbesen Arena presented challenges, our community displayed outstanding flexibility and cooperation.

The Discipline Committee welcomed new members this year, bringing in fresh energy and a renewed focus on constructive support for players and families alike.

House League and Recreational Successes

At the RHL level, our teams brought home a combined 15 medals from tournaments. Both U11 and U13 Red and Blue teams won the Rocky and Mountain banners, while the U15 Rocky team also earned their division banner. The U18 Rocky team fought hard but fell just short in the banner finals—an inspiring run nonetheless.

We were particularly pleased with the response to our end-of-season survey. Feedback from our families helped us identify a growing need for a non-body contact competitive option. As a result, we are excited to announce the introduction of a non-body contact competitive team beginning in the 2025–2026 season.

AMHA Competitive Stream (CAHL)

Our Competitive Stream, better known as CAHL, featured approximately 300 players across 16 teams this season. We had teams that finished first, others that finished last, and everything in between. Four teams brought home banners, and many more made spirited playoff runs.

But beyond standings and statistics, what matters most is the experience of the athletes. We've heard from countless families who said this was the best season their child has ever had playing hockey. That is, without question, the greatest measure of our success—and something every member of this organization can take pride in.

In Closing

This season was shaped by teamwork, passion, and a commitment to excellence. Whether through championship banners, developmental strides, or personal milestones, every player, coach, volunteer, and family contributed to the success of our AMHA community.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We look forward to building on these successes together as we continue to grow, improve, and celebrate the game we love.