Battleford’s Minor Hockey Report PROVINCIAL BANTAM A

The team was picked out of 2 teams playing in the step league. The was no player to be cut because some kids did not want to play & some parents did not want their kids to play. Some of the parents thought the opposition would be too big and rough.

We went to a tournament in Martinsville the 1st weekend in January. We played 4 games and lost 3 and won 1.

1st practice was at Salteaux and then we practiced Tuesday mornings at Battleford at 7:00 a.m. The turn- out at morning practices was low. We moved practices to evening at Salteaux, Maymont, (because we couldn’t get ice in the Battlefords) and Battleford mid-afternoon during school break.

We played Swift Current in 1st round of Provincials. 1st game was at Swift Current and we lost 10-0. We got a 5 minute major and a player kicked out of the game during the first 10 minutes of the first period. (This was the third time this player received the same penalty) During the 5 minute penalty we got 2 more 2 minute minors so we played 5 on 3 for almost 4 minutes. They scored 5 goals during this span.

At the end of the 1st period it was 7-0. Swift Current didn’t score again until the last 2 minutes in the game. Our players ran out of gas.

The 2nd game was in Battleford and we lost 5 – 2.

Swift Current had a very good team. They won the provincials, beating Martinsville 13 to 9 and Lumsden 11 – 4.

We would have had a better chance, but we lost 3 of our top players before provincials. 2 before and 1 during provincials. Swift Current had a very good team.

The players on this team and parents were very good and co-operative and fun to work with.

The kids responded very well to anything we showed them but we didn’t have enough time to teach system and basics.

I would recommend in the future all bantam players be shown how to deliver a body check, take a body check, pin and hold. These drills should be done before the season starts. The players should also be shown how to wrist shoot a puck, give pass and take a pass, backward skating drills need to be worked on.

I would like to say it was a very rewarding for me to coach this team. My assistant coaches were very knowledgeable and helpful. I would like to thank Battleford’s Minor Hockey for this opportunity. I would be honored to be considered to do a provincial team again.

Yours truly,

John Millard,