

2017-2018 Bantam Provincial Team

Season Review:

The Bantam A Provincial team was made up of 17 players who were selected using BMHA evaluations in addition to a second evaluation. The team consisted of 9 forwards (5-03's, 4-04's), 6 defence (4-03's, 2-04's), 2 goalies (both 04's). We started the Provincial season in December with one exhibition game in Kyle vs Swift Current's Provincial Team. Early January we attended a Bantam A tournament in Drake where we went undefeated. This was followed by two exhibition games versus Meadow Lake's Provincial team. These exhibition games prepared us for Provincial Playoffs. In December/January we incurred a few injuries including two broken hands and a broken arm. With such, we needed to quickly backfill these positions with two alternate Forwards and we played with five Defence. The two alternate players really stepped up and contributed to the teams success. When the injured players returned, we chose to keep the alternates on the roster for the remainder of the season, giving us more depth. Through 15 games, our goalies alternated evenly until the Provincial Final. Both goalies played really well, making the big saves when necessary keeping the momentum on our side.

Exhibition games:

Swift Current Broncos 6-3 win
Meadow Lake Prov team 8-4 win
Meadow Lake Prov team 4-4 tie
Regina 7-4 win
Melfort 10-0 win
Drake/Viscount 12-0 win
Delisle 11-0 win

Provincial Playoffs:

Cudworth/Bruno 7/2, 8/3 wins
Martensville 11/2, 7/4 wins
Warman 9/0, 11-4 wins

Provincial Final:

Swift Current 3/2, 6/2 wins

Total: 120 goals for / 34 goals against

Although practices at 7am Monday mornings were not the most ideal, the team was committed to be there, even those from 30-60 minutes out of town. We did have additional evening practices some weeks as well. We worked on Skill Development as well as Powerplay / Penalty kill systems that worked very effectively in games. We also worked on even strength breakouts, forechecking and backchecking strategies. The players soaked up what we were teaching in practice and applied it well in games.

In addition to what was learned on ice, I believe many life lessons & life skills were learned by the boys. A number of bus trips and time spent together allowed the boys to build stronger relationships and mesh together as a team. On the last bus trip to Swift Current for the final, the boys were calm and relaxed, having fun playing each other in NHL hockey on Millard's PS4 & TV he brought along for the trip. Thanks to Jordan and his drivers at Ventures West Bus Lines for getting us to and from our games safely.

On behalf of myself and the coaching staff, we are extremely proud of the boys and their accomplishment. Their compete level and drive was spot on from start to finish. It was truly a treat to coach this group of boys.

I'd like to make a few thank you's: to the BMHA board for their support, my Assistant Coaches Trevor Scherman/Darrel Brandle, Trainer Lindsay Holm, Manager Shannon Kramer, Treasurer Michelle Scherman

and Event Coordinator Susan Johnson for their commitment to our team this season, made for a lot of fun on and off the ice. Thanks also to Martin Smith who attended a few practices to fine tune a couple of areas of our game. Also a thanks to the other league team Coaches Lindsay Holm and Greg Cameron for their cooperation in scheduling practices and games.

Lastly need to thank the parents for their commitment to the team as well. Without your commitment, our season wouldn't have been nearly as successful.

Regards,
Brendan Kramer
Bantam Provincial A Barons