

Battlefords U18 AAA Stars – 2023/2024 Year in Review

Board of Directors:

Chairperson: Bruce Yockey

Secretary/Billet Coordinator: Andrea Sparrow

BMHA Rep: Patricia Meiklejohn

Members at Large: Kevin Russell, Carson Sparrow, Dana Johnson, Aaron Monchuk

Parent Rep: Brett Sautner, Joel Flory

Bookkeeper: Carmen Menssa

Our Staff for the 2023/2024 season included:

Head Coach: Dale Grayston

Assistant Coaches: Todd Heck, Nate Monchuk

Trainer/Equipment Manager: Barry Belak

Director of Hockey Operations: Shawn Robinson

The team this year battled hard to try and secure a playoff spot. We had some great segments during the season where it looked like we would do just that, but 5 or 6 times we lost close games late in the third period and that ultimately left the team on the outside of the playoff picture. The players did show growth and developed individually and as a team overall this season. The boys also contributed to the community spending time at River Heights Lodge, helping with Colby's Kidz, BMHA teams and having our 7th Skater with them for home games.

It's important recognize all our staff for the time and effort they dedicated to our hockey program. Coach Grayston and his staff, as well as our Director of Hockey Operations Shawn Robinson, work tirelessly to give our players the opportunity to develop and excel within our program. Thank you, Dale, Shawn, Todd, Barry, and Nate for the countless hours you dedicated to our hockey program this season. We wish our graduating players all the best in hockey and their future endeavors. We are extremely grateful to all our Billets, who open their homes and allow us to accommodate our out-of-town players.

It now costs in excess of \$225 000 to operate our club, but Shawn Robinson works very hard to keep costs in check. This combined with fundraising efforts of a dedicated group of parents led by Brett and Brendee Sautner, Mandy Lehman, Tera Fisher and Amanada Pockrant, helped our organization maintain a positive bottom line. We are also grateful for the efforts of Leslie-Anne and Gerry Smith who created opportunities for us to partner with BATC in bringing awareness to initiatives such as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (M+MIW). The team was proud to wear the M+MIW jerseys and grateful for the admission and 50/50 sponsorship.

Thank you to Byron Hildebrand for the team photo and for taking excellent game day photos throughout the season!

Spring Evaluation Camp took place April 19-21 and gave us the chance to evaluate players to form a nucleus of a roster heading into the next SMAAHL season and look at prospects for the future as well.

We will be having our AGM sometime in late May (Date TBD).

***Bruce Yockey
Chairperson/Governor
Battlefords U18 AAA Stars Hockey Club***