

## **2019-20 Battlefords Midget AA Barons – Year End Report**

It was good year for the Midget AA Barons. We started the season with another great turn out at tryouts in late September. We had 46 players come out and we really appreciate their interest in our Midget AA program. After tryout camp we had 3 exhibition games and finalized our 19-man roster after some very tough decisions.

The first League Game was October 9<sup>th</sup> and the season was on. This strength of this year's team was overall depth and it was a real good thing because we ended up losing 72-man games to injury and suspension in the regular season. After so much success in the previous season we had set some fairly high expectations as a team and new that we couldn't surprise teams, that they would be gunning for us every game. The Season ended on February 16<sup>th</sup> and we ended up finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a record of 19 wins, 9 losses, 2 ties and 3 OT losses for 43 points. This was a great accomplishment for the team, considering all the injuries we had to battle thru. In our 12-team league we ended up 3<sup>rd</sup> in Goals For and 1<sup>st</sup> in Goals Against, while ranking 6<sup>th</sup> in Power Play and 4<sup>th</sup> in Penalty Kill.

We attended 2 tournaments this year, Edmonton in November and Regina in January. In Edmonton it was an 8-team tourney with teams from Edmonton (CAC), Red Deer, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Swift Current, East Kootany & Brandon. It was a good experience to play some different competition, but we ended up 1W & 2L in our group and didn't not make the playoff round. We did receive some individual recognition as Barons defenseman Rocsyn Bird was voted as the Tournament MVP. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row we went to the Fred McBeth Midget AA tourney and had identical showing as the previous year, winning our pool but losing out in the A side semi-finals to the eventual tournament winners. With winning 2 games and losing 1 in pool play, only to lose in the semi-finals to North East who are our biggest rivals, as a coach I was concerned on how the team would handle it. But thanks to the bus getting stuck in a McDonalds parking lot for 2 ½ hours, the loss was quickly forgotten.

Heading into playoffs, the team was mostly healthy and peaking at the right time. We drew the 6<sup>th</sup> place Saskatoon Screaming Eagles in the first round and defeated them 3 games to 1. In round 2 we matched up against Humboldt Broncos, who with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish had home ice advantage. With the team playing so well, home ice didn't matter as we were able to sweep the Broncos in 3 games. We played the final game on Thursday Match 12<sup>th</sup> in Humboldt, prior to the game, we had received an email from the league telling us the rest of playoffs would be cancelled do to the Covid19 Pandemic. It was an emotional day, happiness from winning the game and series, then upset that we wouldn't be able to defend our Championship against North East in the finals.

I would like to recognize the following five graduating players.

- #16 - Ashton Harris – Forward – Our Captain & 3 years with the Midget AA Barons
- #10 - Chase Taggart – Defense – Assistant Captain & 3 years with the Midget AA Barons
- #2 - Tyler Payne – Forward – Assistant Captain & 3 years with the Midget AA Barons
- #20 - Bryson Monych – Forward – Leading Scorer(tied) & 2 years with the Midget AA Barons
- #17 - Keanu Foulds – Forward – Leading Scorer(tied) & 1 year with the Midget AA Barons

I would also like to congratulate Rocsyn Bird and Jordan Grill on signing with the Battlefords AAA Stars. I am hoping that there will be a few more players from this year's team be given the opportunity to play AAA midget next season.

I would like to thank my players, coaches and parents for being my hockey family for the season, their dedication and hard work is greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank BMHA and the communities that make up the AA Barons for all their support. Finally, I would like to thank my family, without their support I would not be able to dedicate so much time coaching the sport I love.

Lee Ulmer  
Head Coach  
Battlefords Midget AA Barons