



2023 SEEBA Presidents Report

2023 is in the books and at SEEBA, it proved to be a very valuable season of growth and development for our organization.

Winter Camp

Our annual winter development camp went forward and was sold out very quickly. SEEBA had over 55 athletes attend our rep style camp, and it was staffed by SEEBA's coaching staff of CJ, Brad Badger, Jon Lee, Kyle Kobi, Tyler Cox, Connor MacLaughlin, Gage Otto, and Nolan Cherniwchan. Overall, the camp was successful, and we look to put this on again this January for SEEBA, SJP, and SWEMBA.

18U AAA Team

Anchored by head coach Drew Boyer of our 18UAAA, we headed into the season looking to earn a spot in the BAEL league. We understood clearly at the beginning of the year that we had a very young team of extremely talented ball players, we knew that we had a good chance at finishing the season in a favourable position. Highlights from the season were:

- Increased wins from 8 (2022) to 24 (2023)
- Finished 5th in league standings even with 12 games cancelled due to weather.
- 3 players selected to Team Alberta 16U Prospects: Jack Zarowny, Matthew Botticelli, and Lucas Gensler.
- Three tournaments: Kamloops, Okotoks, Spokane, WA.
- Travelled to Washington for the Spokane Wood Bat Classic. Finished with a 2-3 record. Won the final game against St. Albert BAEL by mercy.
- Provincial weekend in Sherwood Park finished 2-2 in the round robin. Played some exciting games which included a walk-off win in the first game against the Bisons, as well as a comeback win against Okotoks in the final game.
- At the Rawlings Cup, our 16U team finished 3-0 in round robin - defeating Calgary Bucks (mercy), St. Albert (mercy), and Lethbridge (scored 9 runs in the last inning to win). Eventually lost out in the semi-final game.
- RHP Wyatt Knight signed to Dordt University in Sioux Center, IA (NAIA)

15U AAA Team

SEEBa was very fortunate to be able to acquire two new young Co-Coaches for the 15UAAA team this season. Gage Otto, and Liam Woodburn headed up the squad for a successful season. This was both Gage's and Liam's first year coaching at the AAA level and they did an outstanding job. Although it was a bit of a bumpy ride from time to time, both these young gentlemen carried themselves respectfully well and we look forward to having them back in 2024. Highlights of the season were:

- Finished the season with an overall record of 29W – 26L (.527)
- Played in 3 tournaments – Kamloops, Doc Plotsky, Okotoks
- Earned a spot in Tier 1 provincials (went 1 – 2 in round robin)
- Roster was split almost 50/50 for first years to second years
- We had 6 players selected to the Zone 6 team to participate in the Alberta Summer Games in Okotoks. Edge Lohlun, Gabe Fink, Xavier Lampshire, Jace Richardson, Duncan Macauley, and Shelton Valentine.
- From the 6 players that went to the Alberta Summer Games, 3 were selected to participate with Team Alberta North in Kamloops in October. (Xavier Lampshire, Gabe Fink, and Edge Lohlun)
- Claire Hingley was selected to the Ladies U16 Team Alberta and participated in the National Championships in Summerside PEI. Claire represented Alberta well and came home with a Bronze Medal!

13U AAA Team

New to SEEBa this year, Nolan Cherniwchan was the skipper of our 13U AA team. Supported by assistant coaches CJ, Tyler Cox, and Craig Roberge the team pushed through the challenges of having a young team and embraced developing our young and first-time rep players. As an organization, we are encouraged by the work Nolan and his team have done with our young crew and look forward to having our second-year athletes prepared and ready to make the jump into the 15U stream. Highlights of the 13U Season were:

- Finished the season 15w-25L overall record (League and Tournaments)
- Played in 3 Tournaments – Kamloops, Doc Plotsky, Okotoks
- 3rd place finish in tier 2 Provincials
- 1/3 of kids on roster with no Rep ball experience (or in only 2nd year of baseball developed into productive players.
- Half the roster also First Year players
- Kids grew from timid players to players who weren't afraid to take charge.
- After our first few games the team grew together and became one

Fall/Winter Off Season Training Program

Listening to our membership is key to the success of our program at SEEBA. It was clear through consultation of our membership, that SEEBA had to step up its game when it came to off season training. As noted previously in this report, in 2022 we operated our typical winter program that focuses its attention to all ages and abilities of players and we will continue this programming for 2024 and beyond, however, there were a handful of athletes that wanted to train with SEEBA for the fall and winter at a more intense schedule and at a higher capacity. Therefore, with the support of the SEEBA Board, we were successful in launching our 3 day per week Fall and Winter Training program for our 15U and 18U Athletes.

SEEBA's fall and winter programming focuses on the overall athletic development of our athletes through weekly, speed, agility, and strength sessions coupled with baseball-specific skill-building, and practice. We are fortunate to have a first-class Baseball coaching group headed up by Drew Boyer and supported by Nolan Cherniwchan, Gage Otto, Liam Woodburn, Tyler Cox, Nolan Dechaine, and Levi Moon. We have added Neville Wright (3 Time Canadian Olympian – Sprinting/Bobsled and Men's National Soccer Speed coach) as our speed and acceleration coach, and Meshkin Makari as our Strength Coach to our athletics team.

The highlight of the program for the athletes and the coaches will be our trip to Phoenix, Arizona in January where we will be taking two teams (18U/15U) to compete in the USSSA MLK Classic.

Currently we have 22 Full time participants, and we are receiving enquires weekly about new players joining.

Casino

SEEBA held our casino this past July with great volunteer support from our membership. We should be seeing the funds that we have earned during this fundraiser in our accounts in the next few weeks if not already. Thank you to all the members that volunteered and made this fundraiser a success.

Closing Remarks

The SEEBA board is extremely proud of all our teams this year. Each team had their challenges to overcome and goals to achieve and we believe, because of the hard work and dedication from our Coaches, Volunteers and Members, that 2023 was a success. A special thank you to all our board members that put in the extra hours to ensure we deliver on our elite level programming. Looking forward to building on 2023 and delivering a better 2024 season!

Respectfully,

Paul Auton
President – SEEBA
president@edmontonexposbaseball.ca