



## **2024 SEEBA Presidents Report**

2024 has been an exciting and transformative year for SEEBA, filled with growth, development, and memorable achievements at all levels of our organization. This year, our teams demonstrated resilience, dedication, and a passion for excellence both on and off the field. From strong performances in league play to inspiring individual achievements and provincial competitions, SEEBA has continued to build on its tradition of fostering high-caliber athletes and community spirit. As we reflect on the season, it's evident that the hard work of our players, coaches, and volunteers is driving us toward a bright and promising future. With every challenge faced, we've emerged stronger, more united, and ready to take on new opportunities in the seasons ahead.

Looking toward 2025, we anticipate new challenges as the Baseball Alberta Elite League (BAEL) moves to adopt a non-lateral transfer rule for the 18U category. This rule will allow Edmonton-based players to move freely to other BAEL organizations without requiring a transfer authorized by the home association. With this new rule coming into effect in 2025, our primary challenge will be to retain our elite baseball players. Without the ability to hold onto these athletes, it will become increasingly difficult for SEEBA to win the 18U AAA Provincials, which is necessary for us to move into the BAEL league.

Adding to this, Baseball Alberta has expressed interest in shifting the 15U and 13U categories to a BAEL format, representing a significant evolution in how these age groups compete and develop.

To navigate these changes successfully, SEEBA will need to collaborate closely with our partner organizations, including NEZ, SJP, SWEMBA, and EABA. These partnerships will be critical as we work to align our programs with the evolving BAEL structure while ensuring our athletes continue to receive high-quality training and competition opportunities. By embracing these transitions and maintaining strong communication with our community, SEEBA is well-positioned to adapt to these changes and continue striving to achieve success in an increasingly competitive landscape.

The Expos had a great 2024 season here are some of the highlights of the year from our three AAA Teams.

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### 13UAAA Team

- **Head Coach:** Brad Harsch
  - **Roster Size:** 12 players
  - **Record:** 14-4, finishing 4th in league standings.
  - **Highlights:**
    - Competed well in Tier 1 Provincials but fell short after a walk-off hit by the opposing team.
    - Many players contributed to the 14U Rawlings Cup team.
  - **Looking Forward:** The team showed significant growth, and we are eager to see them take the next step in their baseball journeys.
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### 15UAAA Team

- **Head Coach:** Gage Otto
  - **Roster Size:** 15 players
  - **Player Highlights:**
    - **Xavier Lampshire** and **Gabe Fink** represented Baseball Alberta Selects.
    - **Claire Hingley** earned the 16U Female Player of the Year award.
  - **Season Highlights:**
    - Finished 8th in league standings and participated in Tier 1 Provincials.
    - 8 players joined the Zone 6 team, with several also competing in the 16U Rawlings Cup.
    - A strong start to the season showcased the team's potential.
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### 18UAAA Team

- **Head Coach:** Drew Boyer
- **Roster Size:** 18 players
- **Player Highlights:**
  - **Wyatt Knight** signed with Hawks Collegiate.
  - **Matt Botticelli** and **Cooper Buchko** made the final cuts for Team Alberta.
- **Season Highlights:**
  - Finished 7th in the league.
  - Secured 2nd place at the Maple Ridge Tournament.

- Despite a strong start, the team struggled to maintain momentum in the latter half of the season.
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## Expos Off-Season

The 2023/24 season marked a significant milestone as the inaugural year of SEEBA's expanded programming, featuring 55 players across our teams. Moving into 2024/25, we've had a slower start with 40 players registered, but our focus remains on delivering exceptional training and development opportunities for all athletes.

One of the highlights of this off-season has been our new partnerships that enhance both our development programs and player support services.

SEEBA has formed a strategic partnership with the **St. Albert Development Program**, an exciting collaboration that aligns two strong development-focused organizations. This partnership creates more opportunities for player growth through shared resources, knowledge exchange, and joint development initiatives. Together, SEEBA and the St. Albert Development Program aim to elevate the quality of baseball training in the region, ensuring players at all levels receive top-tier instruction and preparation for competitive play.

Additionally, our partnership with **The BRIDGE Sports Therapy and Training** has brought a new level of athletic support to our players. The BRIDGE works hand in hand with our Speed, Agility, and Acceleration Coach, **Neville Wright**, a three-time Canadian Olympian, to create a comprehensive program that combines advanced sports therapy techniques with elite-level performance training. This collaboration ensures our athletes can train harder, recover faster, and minimize the risk of injuries, emphasizing both physical performance and player health.

Our off-season programming continues to prioritize the overall athletic development of our athletes through weekly sessions that include strength training, speed and agility drills, and baseball-specific skill-building. With a first-class coaching team, our athletes are receiving some of the best training available in the region.

With these new partnerships and enhanced programs, SEEBA is positioned to provide our athletes with unparalleled opportunities for growth, success, and preparation for the challenges of the 2025 season.

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## Casino Fundraiser

Again, we are fortunate to have received our date for our casino in 2025. Our time slot that we have received from ALGC is Sunday May 25th, and Monday May 26th at Pure Casino (Yellowhead). Once our 2025 teams have been selected, our volunteer coordinator will be in touch with our membership and will assign time slots as required.

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## Closing Remarks

SEEBA is immensely proud of its teams, athletes, and dedicated community. Our players have shown resilience and determination, building on the successes of 2024. With a focus on improving training programs, enhancing player development, and fostering a strong community. I want to personally thank our Board but more specifically, Joe Botticelli (Outgoing Secretary, Lise Cox (Outgoing Treasurer) Lisa Gensler (Outgoing Registrar) and Brad Harsch (Outgoing Director at Large/SWEMBA) for all the work and commitment you have shown SEEBA during your time on the board. Finally, I would like to thank all our coaches and volunteers that make our program and seasons a success! Without all the help we receive from our membership, we would not have such a successful program. Thank you again and we are encouraged and excited for 2025.

Respectfully,

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