

THE **RICOH** BREAKAWAY

The Mac's AAA Midget Hockey Newsletter

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Macs Awards and Stats

Accuracy, diligence, collaboration and responsibility all describe what Mac's awards and stats is about.

By Chris Turnbull

When it comes to the Mac's awards and stats, there is no shortage of people or processes to ensure the accuracy that has been a hallmark of the tournament for over 35 years.

There have been mistakes – so people say. And maybe there have been, but when it comes to making sure that every possible angle is covered, Garry French, Sean Gilbert, Lindsey Stilling and their team do everything possible to ensure that accuracy that we mentioned earlier in this article.

For any one game in the round robin portion of the Mac's there are between 6 and 10 awards people watching the game. Each of those people has one or two documents to fill out, from plus/minus to possible all-star selections for the Mac's awards. Every stat is important and every document is kept on file so that at the end of the round robin when the award winners are determined the stats team can go back and review every little detail to ensure



Sean Gilbert and Garry French STATS and Awards

the right person won the award. Some of the stats that people record are as follows; plus/minus – two people record all the players numbers who are on the ice when a goal is scored for or against. Sometimes they see things a ref might miss, like an assist on a goal because they noticed or that certain player who wasn't on the ice at the time a goal was scored or who wasn't involved in the play. Then there's the Game Star selection people – they are responsible for picking a game star from each team. There are usually two of these individuals and collaboration is a huge part of their job. Then there are the All-Star selection people who sit

in the stands and watch the game and decide who the top players in the game are without the influence of the game star selectors or anyone else. These are knowledgeable hockey people who have been around the game for many years. Referees are evaluated based not only on the calls they make, but how they manage emotions between the teams, coaches and other officials. Shots on goal for that ever-popular Best Goalie Award are important. Goal judges are trained and instructed on what is a shot and what is not a shot on goal. (for those that aren't sure – any shot that would have gone into the net should

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the goalie not be there is a shot) Occasionally it ends up with a tie like we did in 2004 when goaltenders Pat McGann, Team Illinois and Travis Yonkman, Saskatoon Contacts shared the award despite the fact that they were on opposite teams in the Mac's championship final that year. Oh, and did I mention the review of every single scoresheet or the team by coaches who also have a say in the tournament all-stars. Each coach selects players from the opposing team after each game for all-star consideration. A true gesture of sportsmanship in a sometimes-heated event.

All these stats, all this paperwork, all this input are debated to make final selections the many hours of collaboration to finally select the Mac's all-stars. I won't say there are fists slamming on the table, but there is definitely some heated conversation. Do they always get it right? Who knows, but they always come damn close.

There is a pride and an honor with being selected for an award in the Mac's tournament and Garry and his team try their best to ensure the right player or coach get selected. So, when you see the awards ceremony at the Saddledome on January 1st, you can be assured that the homework has been done, the T's crossed and I's dotted when it comes to the Mac's awards.

STANDINGS

Pool 1	GP	W	L	T	F	A	PTS
Calgary Royals	1	1	0	0	5	1	2
CAC Gregg Distributors	1	0	1	0	3	5	0
Okanagan Rockets	2	1	1	0	8	8	2
Rocky Mountain Roughriders	2	0	2	0	3	11	0
Saskatoon Blazers	2	2	0	0	11	5	4
Pool 2	GP	W	L	T	F	A	PTS
Calgary Northstars	2	1	1	0	4	4	2
Beardy's Blackhawks	2	1	1	0	3	5	2
Fraser Valley Thunderbirds	2	1	1	0	4	3	2
Notre Dame Hounds	1	0	1	0	0	2	0
Red Deer Optimist Chiefs	1	1	0	0	5	2	2
Pool 3	GP	W	L	T	F	A	PTS
Calgary Buffaloes	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
Okotoks Oilers	2	1	0	1	8	2	3
Regina Pat Canadians	2	0	2	0	1	5	0
St. Albert Nektar Data Systems Raiders	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
Vancouver NE Chiefs	1	0	1	0	0	6	0
Pool 4	GP	W	L	T	F	A	PTS
Calgary Flames	2	0	1	1	4	6	1
Brampton 45's	1	0	1	0	1	10	0
Cariboo Cougars	1	0	0	1	2	2	1
Lethbridge Hurricanes	2	1	0	1	7	5	3
Swift Current Legionnaires	2	1	0	1	13	4	3
Pool 5	GP	W	L	T	F	A	PTS
Airdrie CFR Bisons	2	1	1	0	9	9	2
Fort Saskatchewan BP Rangers	2	0	1	1	0	7	1
New York Jr. Islanders	2	1	0	1	6	4	3
Saskatoon Contacts	1	1	0	0	7	0	2
Thompson Blazers	1	0	1	0	3	5	0

Mac's Tournament Wall of Fame

If you've come to a Mac's tournament game at Ken Bracko Arena (Max Bell) you have no doubt seen the Mac's Tournament Wall of Fame.

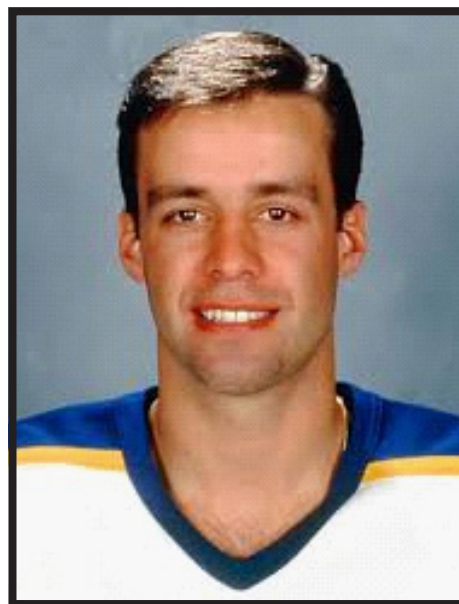
By Chris Turnbull

It's been a labor of love this year for the tournament committee to update the wall after many years of neglect. Like many other things, you do your best to remember and to discover who or what should be on the wall and conversely, who might not quite meet the criteria.

I was recently visited in the tournament office by a gentleman informing me that we had missed putting his son on the wall of fame. I was curious and asked why he felt his son deserved to be on the wall, and to say I was floored by what he told me would be an understatement. He went on to tell me that his son's name was Mark Astley and that he had played way back in the early 80's for the Royals. I then asked if his son had played in the NHL, and sure enough he had with the Buffalo Sabres. Well to me that was enough to put him on the wall, but then he went on to tell me more about Mark and I was further amazed to find out what his dad had to tell us.

Mark not only played for the Calgary Royals in 1986, but he was the first and only defenseman to win the following awards in a single Mac's tournament; Best Defenseman, First Team All-Star, Tournament MVP and Tournament Leading Scorer. If that was all I knew I would be impressed, but then I found out that he recently was inducted into the Lake Superior State University Hall of Fame and that he had played for Team Canada internationally pre-NHL players. I think to say that Mark is truly worthy of being on the Mac's Wall of Fame is gratuitous at best.

To Mark, I say sorry for the oversight. To his father David, I say, thank you for coming to us and bringing Mark to our attention.



Mark Astley

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MALE DIVISION - DAY 3

G#	Time	Loc	Pool	Visitor	Score	Home	Score
21	9:00 AM	KB	1	Rocky Mountain RoughRiders		Saskatoon Blazers	
22	9:00 AM	FDB	5	New York Jr Islanders		Thompson Blazers	
23	11:45 AM	KB	4	Cariboo Cougars		Brampton 45's	
24	11:45 AM	FDB	2	Red Deer Optimist Chiefs		Fraser Valley Thunderbirds	
25	2:30 PM	KB	2	Notre Dame Hounds		Beardy's Blackhawks	
26	2:30 PM	FDB	1	Calgary Royals		CAC Gregg Distributors	
27	5:15 PM	KB	3	Okotoks Bow Mark Oilers		St Albert Nektar Data Systems Raiders	
28	5:15 PM	FDB	4	Calgary Flames		Swift Current Legionnaires	
29	8:00 PM	KB	3	Vancouver NE Chiefs		Calgary Buffaloes	
30	8:00 PM	FDB	5	Airdre CFR Bisons		Saskatoon Contacts	

MALE DIVISION - DAY 2

G#	Time	Loc	Pool	Visitor	Score	Home	Score
11	9:00 AM	KB	5	Fort Saskatchewan Boston Pizza Rangers	0	Saskatoon Contacts	7
12	9:00 AM	FDB	4	Swift Current Legionnaires	10	Brampton 45's	1
13	11:45 AM	KB	3	Calgary Buffaloes	3	Regina Pat Canadians	0
14	11:45 AM	FDB	3	Vancouver NE Chiefs	0	Okotoks Bow Mark Oilers	6
15	2:30 PM	KB	5	New York Jr Islanders	6	Airdrie CFR Bisons	4
16	2:30 PM	FDB	1	Saskatoon Blazers	5	CAC Gregg Distributors	3
17	5:15 PM	KB	1	Okanagan Rockets	6	Rocky Mountain RoughRiders	2
18	5:15 PM	FDB	4	Calgary Flames	2	Lethbridge Hurricannes	4
19	8:00 PM	KB	2	Notre Dame Hounds	0	Calgary Northstars	2
20	8:00 PM	FDB	2	Fraser Valley Thunderbirds	0	Beardy's Blackhawks	1