

# Witness the Power

## Coach's Corner

By Fort Frances Lakers Coach/General Manager  
Wayne Strachan

This week's coaches corner.

Monday July 19, 2010

Summer Camp is done and now we can look forward to gearing up for main camp. We had a good showing and two teams took part in four scrimmage sessions throughout the weekend. We invited back eighteen players to main camp and offered two potential players both defensemen a chance to sign with the team. All in all two goalies, eight defenseman and eight forwards will return to fight for a position on the Lakers' team come August 25<sup>th</sup>.

Lakers' would like to thank all participants for partaking in the weekend camp and wish the non invitees to camp all the best in their upcoming year and development for future camps. One thing that needs to be realized by many of the young players that were in camp is that it takes a lot of commitment, time and effort to be a Junior A hockey player and most of all the dedication to day in and day out make yourself a better player and person. Where you are now in AA, AAA or high school is an intense tough process also, but to play and compete at the Junior A level is ten times harder and if the commitment isn't there than it's hard to get an opportunity to make that next level.

We would like to announce the signings of the following veterans: goaltender Jameson Shortreed, defensemen Morgan McNeill and Cody McCool, forwards Tyler Stevenson, Blake Boaz, Mike Jourdain, Jace Baldwin, Jon Sinclair and Jaret Leclair. Many of these players will be relied on to come back and have huge roles with our team this coming season.

As I last wrote last week that the Lakers' may have a chance to host a road hockey tournament at the bass tournament with the help of the Thunderhawks and M&M meats, this will be put on hold now to a later date. Time commitments from myself with hosting the golf tournament, the Summer Camp and unfortunate circumstances have made it tough for me to organize and run a successful event

that we want to alongside our partners. We will discuss this road hockey tournament for a later date and make it fun and successful. But, in saying that the Fort Frances Lakers will be at the bass tournament selling 400 Club Tickets and remember this ticket gives you an opportunity to win money every home game with two bigger draws before Christmas and the end of the year. We will also have a food booth at the bass tournament with lots of good stuff for the public to come out and enjoy over the weekend festivities. Come out and enjoy a burger, hot dog, rib sandwich, and much more from our great volunteers. Hope to see you all there.

The SIJHL league scheduling meeting will take place on Tuesday July 27<sup>th</sup> in Fort Frances at the IFK conference room. The league is currently looking at a 56 or 60 game schedules which will include 2 showcase tournament games in Spooner, WS giving teams a chance to show many scouts just what the SIJHL is about and what our players have to offer. We are also looking at possibly having a east and west division with Fort Frances joining Dryden Ice Dogs and the Sioux Lookout Flyers, the other being F.W. North Stars with Duluth Clydesdales and Wisconsin Wilderness. These are a few topics that will be on the table as well as the playoff format for the scheduling meeting. Our organization is proud to be hosting the other members of the SIJHL for this meeting.

On behalf of the Lakers' board of directors, coaching staff, players and fan club we would like to welcome all members of the 2010 Bass Tournament to our great town. Wish each and every competitor in the field the best of luck and a safe tournament. We would also like to send a huge thank you to Tom Fry and the bass tournament committee for working with us and allowing us to be a part of this community event. We appreciate your help and support!



**"Achieve, Believe and Succeed"**