



Annual Report of the RMLL President
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The very first thing that I would like to do is congratulate the Sherwood Park Outlaws on winning the President's Cup as the Canadian Sr. B champion. It is not very often that we get to celebrate a national champion in Alberta. In addition, it was the way that the Outlaws won the championship: undefeated in the tournament (6-0), on the road in Ontario, having to beat the two Ontario teams twice, trailing in each game! The RMLL is very proud of the Outlaws.

The 2007 season was another period of growth. There were 59 teams in the RMLL for the 2007 season (up 6 from 2006):

- Senior – 6 teams
- Junior A – 4 teams
- Junior B Tier I – 9 teams
- Junior B Tier II – 17 teams
- Junior B Tier III – 15 teams
- Junior Ladies – 8 teams

My report is divided into two parts. Part One is a discussion of some of the key events that occurred in the entire league. Part Two offers a short synopsis on each of the divisions. This second part is intentionally short because each of the division coordinators will be filing separate reports.

Calgary Tier II and Tier III

In Calgary, the minor clubs took over the administration of the Tier II and Tier III teams following the demise of the Calgary Major Box Lacrosse Association. While there were definitely growing pains, there was obvious progress in the running of these junior teams. The fact that the number of Tier II/Tier III teams went up in 2007 shows the wisdom of this decision. It also shows that cooperation can occur between multiple lacrosse organizations, as there were frequent meetings between the minor associations within the CDLA and the RMLL, including a well-attended information session explaining the new process to parents and players.

RMLL Administration

In early June 2007, the RMLL's Executive Director Rhonda Crowell became seriously ill. It was only when Ms. Crowell got sick that we realized how much she has done in the past. In her absence, a lot of issues fell through the cracks. Player registrations,

statistics, website, scheduling, etc. The rest of the RMLL Executive kicked in and expanded their workloads. In addition, I would like to publicly thank Carolyn Sucha, the ALA Registrar, who stepped up to the table to help with player/coach registration. We have learned from this episode, and plan on distributing the workload on a much wider basis. The RMLL cannot, ever again, become too reliant on one person. To Ms. Croswell: welcome back and we missed you!

RMLL Website

There is no way to sugarcoat it; the RMLL website was a mess this year. This was primarily due to Ms. Croswell's illness, but it was also due to an antiquated website design. On a positive note, the RMLL forum became a key component in distributing crucial information (like standings and playoff schedules) and we received plenty of calls from people volunteering their services. We are still working at compiling the final player statistics. At the AGM, a series of proposals will be debated on how to improve the site. These will include a new website company and the decentralization of statistics (so that one person is not doing every team, but it is split into divisions). On the issue of statistics, I would also like to thank Terry Dokken for taking the time to complete a RMLL record book. I would encourage fans to have a peak, it is interesting reading.

Senior

The 2007 season saw both a better quality of play and a more competitive senior division. The first round of the playoffs saw some very exciting lacrosse. In the north, the Sherwood Park Outlaws defeated the Spruce Grove Slash in three straight games, but by a total of only four goals. In the south, the Airdrie Knights needed a win in the fifth and deciding game to knock off the stubborn Calgary Sr. Raiders. In the finals, it was the Outlaws over the Knights. I believe that the higher caliber within the senior division was a key factor in the Outlaws winning the President's Cup. In the future, whoever emerges as RMLL senior champion needs to be considered a serious contender for winning the national championship.

Junior A

The Jr. A division was very tight. There were few points that separated the four teams after the regular season. The final round saw the Edmonton Miners defeat the Edmonton Eclipse in seven games (with several overtime matches). While the performance at the Minto Cup was not what was expected, the future remains very bright for Junior A lacrosse in Alberta.

Junior B Tier I

In 2007, the Jr.B division expanded outside of Alberta, with the introduction of the Saskatchewan SWAT. The SWAT took a while to adjust to the higher caliber of ball in the RMLL, but by the end of the season showed real signs of competitiveness. The finals saw the Calgary Mountaineers swept the surprising Red Deer Rampage to win the RMLL title. At the Founder's Cup, the RMLL was represented by four teams (Mountaineers, Calgary Shamrocks, Sherwood Park Titans, and SWAT) and, in a rematch of their southern division final series, the Shamrocks upended the Mountaineers to claim the bronze medal.

Junior B Tier II

I can honestly say that the caliber of lacrosse in Tier II continues to improve. This division remains a key stepping stone for players going into JrB and JrA. The 2007 season culminated with very competitive provincials in Okotoks. Full marks for Okotoks for putting on a wonderful provincial tournament (they did the same great job with the Tier III provincials). Here are the results:

Gold: Fort Saskatchewan Rebels

Silver: Medicine Hat Sun Devils

Bronze: Okotoks Ice

Junior B Tier III

The Tier III league continued to grow as there were three divisions across Alberta and BC. The league champions, and the host Okotoks Icemen, met in a provincial final that included numerous overtime and one-goal games.

Gold: Vermillion Roar

Silver: Calgary Sabrecats 3

Bronze: Medicine Hat Sun Devils

Junior Ladies

The RMLL remains the only lacrosse league in the country with a major division for female players (it is a model for other provinces to emulate). In 2007, the Sherwood Park Titans continued to be the class of the division as they went through the season undefeated and claimed the championship.

Gold: Sherwood Park Titans

Silver: St. Albert Rams

Bronze: Red Deer Riot