

2012 season report

Junior and Senior Ladies

Seniors

The Calgary Cougars repeated as RMLL Champions beating out Red Deer 11-2 in the final of the tournament.

We had 3 teams again this year, the Bandits, Cougars and Rage. Total rostered players were 60 an increase of 9 players from 2011. Bandit numbers came up to 16, a good increase from last year which is good to see. Cougar numbers were strong at 23, roughly the same as last year. The Rage had 21 players registered of which 11 were true seniors, the rest were juniors.

The teams played an interlocking schedule with the juniors and played a total of 15 games. All teams qualified for the year end tournament. In 2013 we are looking to change this to have the top 2 teams play a best of 3 games for the RMLL Championship. This format will have the season mean something; this is what the teams want.

I expect the numbers to grow again slightly next year. I do have concerns about the Rage as they have no midget or junior program to draw from.

I attended the Bantam/Midget female Nationals in Victoria in July and was pleased to see 4 senior ladies giving back to the sport. Tabatha Aldcroft and Lisa Maynor were assistant coaches for the Alberta Bantams. Krista Lovse and Jennifer Radford were assistant coaches for the Alberta Midgets. Both teams earned a bronze medal.

Juniors

The Sherwood Park Titans repeated as champions beating out the Cardinals in a best of 3 series.

We had 6 teams again this year, the Axemen, Cardinals, Drillers, Sabrecats, Titans and Warriors. Total rostered players were 132 the same number as 2011. All teams were the same or slightly above with the Sabrecats being the only team to lose players.

The teams played an interlocking schedule with the seniors and played 15 games this year up from 14 last year. It appears this number will stay consistent as the teams want the season ended prior to the July long week end. The teams tried a playoff format in 2012 and wish to switch to a tournament style playoff for the 2013 season.

I have heard that 1 or 2 new teams might be interested in putting in an application for the 2013 season, nothing concrete as of now. I do expect the numbers to remain about the same for the 2013 season.

Last year I did a player survey and we tried to incorporate a lot of ideas into the 2012 season. This year I spoke to some players and coaches regarding the 2013 season. Some of the feedback I received has given me cause for concern. I have some ideas that I will be presenting to the executive for their thoughts and approval to move ahead to present to the teams at the 2012 AGM breakout session.

I believe that some major changes need to be made to the ladies program to keep the program growing and to recruit more players from other sports, again this will be discussed with the executive and if they agree on some or all of the issues I will present my ideas to the teams at the AGM for discussion and their vote.

I believe the female game is in a relatively healthy state, but there is always room for growth which will require more teams, and we need to work on the skill aspect of the game to compete in a national arena so that we are competitive.

John Radford

Junior and Senior Commissioner