

Okotoks Raiders Team Report (2014)

Junior A Planning Meeting

Nov.22, 2014

Calgary Delta South- Kananaskis-II

1. Financials- Raiders are in a strong financial position at year end.
2. Leadership- Raiders decision to use professional lacrosse players as coaches was successful and will continue in 2015. The General Manager, together with the leadership group support, negotiated the trade of two key players. The trades were made in consideration of i) the longer term plan for development of the young talent on the Raiders, ii) the benefits of extra-provincial players, iii) providing development for the individuals traded and iv) providing our traded players a meaningful opportunity to compete for a Minto Cup or Mann Cup.
3. Facilities – Raiders continue to work with Okotoks to book appropriate facilities for competition and practice that are cost effective.
4. Promotion- The Max Bell was used for the promotion of the Raiders and the game of lacrosse. A pub night was a successful fund raiser and team builder.
5. Travel- Raiders canceled a weekend of competition in BC as a result of the loss of availability of our coaches due to their playoff success in the NLL.
6. Health and Safety- The use of contracted trainers was very successful. Responding to a goal set by management, all players were professionally assessed using baseline pre concussion testing. Concerns remain about the Gait facemask and other alternatives will be used as soon as possible.
7. Communication- The Raiders volunteers updated and maintained the website, facebook and twitter. Followers and likes continue to increase. Most games were live tweeted. Remy Greer and the Western Wheel provided excellent coverage of the Raiders and lacrosse in the Okotoks region. Raiders' stories were also reported by IL Indoor. Shaw TV could not schedule Jr A games as uncertainty about the participation of the Miners, delayed scheduling of the season past the Shaw deadline.
8. Western League- Despite our Jr A Commissioner's support and requests by the Raiders and Titans, no meeting could be scheduled to discuss the Western League as contemplated by the BC Jr A leadership. The Raiders remain the only team from Alberta accepted by the new league governors.
9. Midget Draft- Raiders were able to draft skill on both sides of the floor, and in our opinion drafted the most athletic talent available.
10. Player and Team Development- Raiders continue to support club alignments through minor and Junior B to improve communication, coaching and player development. In 2014 the Raiders have also supported the development of female lacrosse. Raiders have a first class coaching staff and believe that this players' leadership group has the potential to be the best ever.
11. Off the Floor- Raiders coaches and alumni were very successful in their lacrosse careers.
 - i) Adam Shute, Chad Mitchell and Titan Mike DeGirolamo were all drafted by the Edmonton Rush
 - ii) In 2013, Jake Hayes, Barclay Hickey, Brett Baron, Cam Copland, Coach Dane Dobbie, Coach Andrew McBride, attended the Roughnecks camp; Mitch Banister, Coach & Alum Jesse Fehr- Edmonton Rush; Cody McMahon- Colorado Mammoth; Kevin Pym- Buffalo Bandits and James Delaney- Philadelphia Wings. In 2014
 - iii) Coach Dane Dobbie led the NLL in goal scoring for 2013-2014 season. Coach Andrew McBride was the captain of the Roughnecks.
 - iv) Coach Jesse Fehr played for Team Scotland, alumni Jonathan Munk, Czech Republic and Rob Griffith, Team Finland at the FIL World Championships.