

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Head Coach of the 2008-2009 Pee Wee Rep team. Even though tryouts are a few months away, I thought that it would be best to share some of my thoughts on the upcoming season as well as some background information on myself.

Even though I was born in the US while my father was playing professional hockey, I grew up in Canada. I played minor hockey in the small town of Kimberley B.C. After my final bantam season, I left to play for the Lethbridge Hurricanes of the WHL. During my second season in Lethbridge, I was traded to the Portland Winter Hawks. Also, this was the year I was drafted by the Hartford Whalers (now Carolina Hurricanes) of the NHL. After my nineteen year old year, I left Portland to begin playing professionally in the Whalers' organization.

Although I spent most of my professional career in the minor leagues, I did get to play some games in the NHL. Furthermore I was fortunate enough to have represented Canada in the U-18 select tournament in Japan as well as the US in the 1994 World Junior Championship as well as the 1995 World Championships. I also played two seasons in the German Elite League (DEL) as well as a season in Sweden. I finally retired from hockey in 2005 and returned to Portland to begin the next phase of my life with my wife and four children. I am currently a senior at PSU studying engineering.

Over the last three seasons I have coached at the house level with the Jr. Hawks. Many of you who know me know that we had a lot of fun in house and we have developed some kids who were at the beginning stages of the game. But recently, my thirst is to return to serious hockey that is played at a high level. In house and even at the rep level, the game should be fun; however rep hockey brings a much higher level of competition. Therefore my coaching style will definitely be adjusted from the last three seasons.

As far as my philosophy with this season, it is my goal to build a team that I believe has not only the kids who have the ability to play at a high level, but also a group that works extremely hard on the ice. Therefore this team will be made up of players who will all get a fair shot regardless of what has happened in the past; everyone starts at the same point. It is also my belief that at this age developing a positive attitude on and off the ice will lead to bigger and better things for each individual. It is also equally important for parents to bring a positive attitude to the rink.

This leads to my stance on discipline. I believe that as humans and we are all fallible by nature. But in saying that, unruly and improper behavior by the player, or parent, will not be tolerated. I will base my rules on a three strikes and you're out policy. I will go into more detail about these policies at a later time.

Currently I have not chosen assistant coaches for the season. I am choosing to wait until have a chance to meet all prospective candidates. I will be choosing coaches who share my philosophies to ensure a cohesive group that can guide the players through the season.

This season will be an independent schedule that should consist of about 40-50 games. It is a goal of mine (possibly unrealistic) to try to balance the home and away schedule to not only keep costs down, but to give our players the chance to show their abilities to family members who may not to get to go on the road. We will look to play teams that are at or slightly above our level to ensure that our players are getting the competition needed to propel them to the next level.

I have not yet decided on the number of players that will be on the team, but expect a number around 15 skaters and 2 goalies. If a player makes the team in August, this roster spot is not guaranteed throughout the entire season. The same level of commitment made at the beginning of the season should equal that at the end of the season. There will be many players who did not make the team in August that will be waiting for a shot.

I am currently in the process of trying to schedule a meeting of parents of all prospective players. This will lay out my policies a little more in depth and it is a great way to get to know everyone face to face. The meeting will also be a good opportunity to talk about fundraising and other budget related items. Being that I am starting my first year as a rep coach, I am still gathering information to obtain a budget that can be cost-effective for all families involved.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Thank you,

Jason McBain

2008-2009 Pee Wee Head Coach

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