

Double letter end of season report 2011-2012

On behalf of the VO committee and myself we hope the kids had an enjoyable season.

There are 3 areas that we worked on improving this is year:

1) More Ice time for team practices and better time slots:

This year we again purchased ice time from LCC and complimented this with additional weekday ice time that we were able to purchase from Evolution Ice. With more kids entering the single letter pipeline, It is becoming more and more difficult to run this program with only the ice graciously offered to us by our single letter sister programs, MRO & HSL. The contracts we negotiated with LCC and Evolution Ice have been central to maintaining the vitality of our organization and enabled us to offer same amount of development hours other Associations offer in other regions across Lac St Louis. In actuality we are in competition with other Associations for these blocks of ice and our proactive approach on ice time procurement has been key to the success of Versant Ouest. In addition, this year, we placed more emphasis on optimizing our scheduling, as a result teams had more than 2 practices per week at times.

2) Non-Parent Coaching

Although some of you have not yet benefitted from our proactive approach on hiring non-parent coaches. This year we have started to set the foundation to hire more non-parent coaches from the Peewee levels all the way up to Junior. We believe that in the long run a coach with no attachment to their child or relative will generally lead to a more successful season amongst all players involved. Finding competent coaches who can relate to young players, with good communication skills is not simple and will not be accomplished over a one year time span. Our attainable objective is to add 1 or 2 new non-parent coaches every year, motivated to stay, that will help serve and promote an unbiased environment for our kids.

3) New Jerseys

I have always believed that our image on the ice is very important. This year as promised we have provided our players with brand new jerseys. Thanks to Lino Saputo who is a personal friend we were able to replace our old jerseys with new ones. We thank Lino for his generous contribution and making our kids proud to represent Versant Ouest.

We continue to have a great vision for our Versant Ouest Hockey Association and with your support to turn it into the number one double letter hockey organization in Lac-Saint-Louis. To build a competent and efficient organization takes time and you need vision with dedicated, experienced individuals. The committee members that remain would like to pass on their knowledge to make sure Versant Ouest remains consistent in its objectives and has continuity to preserve its mission.

4) Securing our relationship with the Lions will ensure that our kids and coaches get the best development and support required at the double letter level. The Lions have full responsibility of selecting coaches, player selection and also participate in our disciplinary committee hearings. This allows the VO committee to focus on the administrative tasks that need to be done to run a hockey association.

Our team has already started planning for next year and looking for ways to improve for next year:

-We are committed to taking a more proactive approach in recruiting talent from single letters. We will work in closer collaboration with single letter Technical Directors and Governors to bring up players that will help increase our talent pool and we will even send designated scouts to single letters to identify potential double letter players.

-We will push for evaluations during the try-outs that will take previous year's attendance records and behavior more seriously.

-We will conduct more Lions Specialty Clinics that will be built into the cost of registration.

-Our Technical Directors will be implementing a coach's mentoring program to ensure coaches have the best tools at their disposal in order for their teams to excel.

Our pre-camp is already on the way, however only at Atom and Pee wee level due to the limited ice time. In the next couple of weeks we will start holding interviews for coaching positions for next season. If you are interested please send us your CV.

I would like to thank all our volunteers; coaches, managers and parents who offered a helping hand. Without you this would not have been made possible.

I also would like to thank our kids for working hard to be part of Versant Ouest. We hope that they learned something and had fun during the whole process.

Finally I would like to congratulate the coaches, players and staff of our PW BB team for winning the Lac Saint-Louis Regional Championship and representing the entire region in the Doge Cup where they competed competitively against the best teams in the Province. Our committee members are inspired by their success and will work hard to spread this winning spirit throughout our Association.

On behalf of the committee we welcome your input and are always ready to listen to your suggestions that will help improve the program.

Pat Gioia

President