



Team 2006 / Equipe 2006

No	Name / Nom	Position	Coaches / Instructeurs
1	Fraser, Zachary	G	Paul Strand – GM / Head Coach – Gérant – Instr. Chef Sam Licata – Asst. Coach – Instr. Adjoint Brian Mehm – Asst. Coach – Instr. Adjoint
35	Essery, Austin	G	
2	Gillespie, Kenneth (A)	F / A	
4	Duguay, Taylor	D	
9	Hucker, Corey (C)	F / A	
11	Universal, Thayer	D	
14	Keith, Alex	D	
15	Moore, Bryan	F / A	
16	Volmin, Mike	D	
18	Rich, T.J.	F / A	
19	Wurman, Tim	F / A	
20	Wilson, Billy	F / A	
22	Blye, Sean	D	
24	Tart, Chris	F / A	
27	DiPaolo, Julian	D	
44	Avedesian, Jonathan	F / A	
48	Fredenburgh, Danny	F / A	
91	Duffy, Collin	F / A	
* Second participation at the Tournament Deuxième participation au tournoi			



Team 2006/ Equipe 2006 Statistics / Statistiques*

No	Name Nom	GP PJ	G B	Asst Aide	Pts	P.I.M PÉN
2	Gillespie, Kenneth	9	5	7	12	12
18	Rich, T.J.	9	4	7	11	8
44	Avedesian, Jonathan	9	6	3	9	2
24	Tart, Chris	9	3	4	7	6
15	Moore, Bryan	9	3	4	7	14
20	Wilson, Billy	9	2	4	6	0
11	Universal, Thayer	9	0	6	6	8
27	DiPaolo, Julian	9	2	3	5	0
9	Hucker, Corey	9	2	3	5	0
14	Keith, Alex	9	0	5	5	2
48	Fredenburgh, Danny	9	4	0	4	0
4	Duguay, Taylor	9	0	3	3	8
19	Wurman, Tim	9	2	0	2	4
16	Wolmin, Mike	9	0	2	2	2
91	Duffy, Collin	9	0	2	2	2
22	Blye, Sean	9	1	0	1	0
1	Fraser, Zachary	9	0	0	0	0
35	Essery, Austin	9	0	0	0	0

* Exhibition games and Tournament games included
Inclus les parties hors-concours et de Tournoi

Game result / Résultat des matchs					
Date	Exhibition Hors-Concours Tournament Tournoi	Team Équipe	Score	Team Équipe	Score
Feb. 9	Exhibition	JR HURRICANES	2	Burnaby (B.C.)	5
Feb. 10	Exhibition	JR HURRICANES	4	Nike Bauer Swarm	2
Feb. 12	Exhibition	Colorado Avalanches	4	JR HURRICANES	1
Feb. 13	Tour	JR HURRICANES	3	Swiss Romande	2
Feb. 14	Exhibition	L.A. Hockey Club	1	JR HURRICANES	2
Feb. 15	Exhibition	JR HURRICANES	9	C.R.S.A.	1
Feb. 16	Exhibition	JR HURRICANES	6	Anchorage	4
Feb. 17	Tour	JR HURRICANES	2	Austria	0
Feb. 18	Tour (1/4 final)	Connecticut Wolves	3	JR HURRICANES	2



2006 Tryouts / Camp de sélection 2006

RBC CENTER OCT.14 TO 16, 2005

During that week end was held at the RBC Center in Raleigh, N.C., the annual Tryouts for the JR Hurricanes. Near 60 young players from North and South Carolina have participated to be part of the 5th Edition.

The players were divided in three groups. Friday night and Saturday morning the players have showed their abilities and skills and the first cut was done the same day.



Sunday morning the players who were selected, have participated to a game. They were divided in 2 teams.

After the game, the evaluators have selected 18 players.

3 players from the 2005 Edition are back.

Austin Essery, Kenneth Gillespie and Corey Hucker from the 2005 Edition are back with the team this year. The other members of the 2006 Edition are: Brian Moore, Billy Wilson, Chris Tart, T.J. Rich, Julian Diapolo, Jonathan Avedesian, Sean Blye, Danny Frendeburg, Alex Keith, Thayer Universal, Tim Wurman, Taylor Duguay, Collin Duffy, Zachary Fraser and Mike Volmin.

COACHING STAFF FOR THE 2006 EDITION

Mr. Paul Strand will be the General Manager and Head Coach for the 2006 Edition. Mr. Sam Licata and Brian Mehm will be the Assistant Coach.

SPECIAL THANKS

A very special thanks to all the people who were involved at the Tryouts. From the registration desk to the people on the ice and to the referees.

RBC CENTER DU 14 AU 16 OCT. 2005

Le camp d'évaluation annuel des JR Hurricanes se tenait durant ce week-end. Des joueurs, tout près de 60, provenaient de la Caroline du Nord et du Sud dans le but de faire partie de la cinquième Edition des JT Hurricanes.

Les joueurs ont été divisés en trois groupes. Vendredi soir et samedi matin, ceux-ci ont eu à démontrer leurs habilités et la première coupure a été effectué le même jour.



Dimanche matin, les joueurs qui ont été sélectionnés, devaient disputer un match. Ils ont été divisés en 2 équipes. Après ce match, les évaluateurs se sont réunis pour faire la sélection finale de l'équipe qui se composera de 18 joueurs.

3 membres de l'Édition 2005 de retour.

Austin Essery, Kenneth Gillespie et Corey Hucker de l'Édition 2005 sont de retour avec l'équipe. Les autres membres de l'équipe sont: Brian Moore, Billy Wilson, Chris Tart, T.J. Rich, Julian Diapolo, Jonathan Avedesian, Sean Blye, Danny Frendeburg, Alex Keith, Thayer Universal, Tim Wurman, Taylor Duguay, Collin Duffy, Zachary Fraser et Mike Volmin.



M. Paul Strand agira comme Gérant et Instructeur Chef pour l'Édition 2006. Il sera assisté de M. Brian Mehm et de M. Sam Licata comme Instructeur adjoint.

REMERCIEMENTS

Un merci spécial à tous les bénévoles qui ont été impliqué durant ce camp de sélection. De l'accueil au personnel qui était sur la glace pour diriger ce camp.



2006 Daily Reports / Journal de bord 2006

Live from the Quebec Pee-Wee Tournament

by Paul Strand



Paul Strand, Youth & Amateur Coordinator for the Carolina Hurricanes, has departed for Quebec City with the 2006 Junior Hurricanes. Strand will be coaching the team in the Quebec International Hockey Pee Wee Tournament - hockey's most prestigious youth tournament. The 12-day competition originated in 1960 and has hosted over 600 NHL players including Wayne Gretzky, Mario Lemieux, Guy Lafleur and Ron Francis.

The 2005 Junior Hurricanes made it to the tournament finals, and this year's squad looks to be just as strong. Check in for Paul's daily updates as he keeps us posted on the Junior Hurricanes' play north of the border.

DAY 1: Wednesday, February 8, 2006 : Everything started off great as the boys arrived at the RDU airport early and ready to go. With 16 of the 18 kids on the team flight, a record, the boys were geared up and asking many questions about what they would see in Canada and when they would get to their billets. T.J. Rich was on his first flight and the first of his family to be on an airplane.

After an uneventful, or so we thought, initial flight, T.J. then became the first of his family to see the Statue of Liberty...from the air. A fairly clear day gave all the boys a good aerial view of New York City from and it was a wonderful site.

The arrival in Quebec City brought a sign of the adversity to come. The flight was on time and again uneventful, however the stick bag containing all of the player's sticks, as well as the hockey bags of T.J. Rich and Jonathan Avadesian did not make the flight with everyone else. We were initially told that the bags were too big to fit on our plane and they would be on the next flight and in Quebec by the time we were.

Well, they were not. And to make matters worse, no one with the airline could tell us where the bags were or when they would be arriving. Adversity officially begins.

Alain Desfosses, our billet captain and native Quebec tour manager, met us at the airport and the boys were delivered to the welcoming billets at the Patro, a YMCA-like facility. As always, the boys were a little nervous, but most of their parents seemed more nervous.

DAY 2: Thursday, February 9, 2006 : Here is where the adversity kicks in. 8 am, and the hockey sticks and gear have STILL not arrived in Quebec City. With a game in less than two hours vs. Burnaby, a panic was close to setting in - We needed two sets of hockey equipment and at least 14 sticks.

Assistant coaches Sam and Brian piled in a car with Alain and I as we tried to put our heads together and set about a plan. We needed two sets of equipment, and a quick survey of the billets managed to uncover enough equipment for Avedesian and Rich. Rich would wear Fredenburg's pond hockey skates and Avedesian would wear his own pond hockey skates. First problem solved.

Now, on to the matter of sticks. Taylor, Dugauy and Corey Hucker came early and had four left-hand sticks, and the billets had another two lefthanded sticks. Another quick survey of the boys revealed we needed 7 right handed sticks, 2 left handed sticks and two goalie sticks.

Alain and I made a quick trip to the Hockey Warehouse and purchased some imitation Brind'Amour and Lemieux Nike sticks, a couple of Bauer lefthanders and a goalie stick, then managed to get to the Mall rink with thirty minutes to spare. Brian cut the sticks down and Sam taped them up while the boys got dressed for the game.

After a speech about adversity, the boys took the ice for the game. They started off strong, never giving a hint of the fact that they were using unusual sticks and odd-fitting equipment as we faced-off in an exhibition game against Burnaby (Calgary), a team in the "AA" bracket - one bracket higher than we play in. The first goal of the game came for us, as Billy Wilson scored on a nice shot, with an assist from Fredenburg.

Though we were playing well despite our conditions, Burnaby took the lead before the end of the first period and maintained a 2-1 lead into the third, despite some good chances by the Jr. Canes, such as when Julian Dipaolo almost tied it up near the end of the second with an end-to-end rush. But like our big brethren, the Jr. 'Canes fought back as Kenny Gillespie, looking like Dipaolo in the second, took the puck end-to-end early in the third and tucked it behind the Burnaby goalie to tie the score.

Shortly after, things caught up to the Jr. Canes, as Burnaby tallied two quick goals to take a 4-2 lead. Burnaby came out on top 5-2 after an empty net goal, but the game was a valiant effort for the boys playing through adversity.

On the bright side, the luggage showed up on the afternoon flight and we had all our gear and original sticks in time for our 3 o'clock practice. This helped put me at ease, and the team was in tremendous spirits for the practice. This was the first time that our entire team had practiced together since early January, and it proved beneficial as the boys worked hard throughout. We ended with a shootout competition and Sean Blye took home the daily crown.

Though not having our equipment was unfortunate, we are very lucky this year to have three exhibition games before our first tournament game comes on Monday, Feb. 13th. This is not important for some teams as they play together all year, however, for our team of kids from five different teams, this is vitally important.



AAA Carolina JR Hurricanes



Tomorrow, an exhibition game against New Hampshire, a team the Jr. Canes defeated in the tournament last year, and the Jr. Hurricanes with all their equipment.

NOTE: Exhibition game are running time

GAME SUMMARY (EXHIBITION GAME #1)

Period 1

Burnaby 1: M. Deacon (M. McLellan)

JR HURRICANES 1: B. Wilson (A. Keith)

Burnaby 2: M. Deacon (Unassisted)

PENALTIES

JR HURRICANES: (M. Vollmin)

Period 2

JR HURRICANES 2: K. Gillespie (A. Keith) (J. Avedesian)

PENALTIES

Burnaby: (D. Potomak) JR HURRICANES: (C. Tart) Burnaby: (S.

Iarabellis) JR HURRICANES: (K. Gillespie)

Period 3

Burnaby 3: S. Iarabellis (V. Newell) (E. Campbell)

Burnaby 4: V. Newell (J. Georgeson) EMPTY NET

Burnaby 5: J. Georgeson (D. Potomak)

PENALTIES

Burnaby: (F. Conti) JR HURRICANES: (K. Gillespie) Burnaby & JR

HURRICANES: (J. Georgeson) Burnaby: (S. Iarabellis)

Final Score: Burnaby 5 JR HURRICANES 2

DAY 3: Friday, February 10, 2006 : The day started off with the Jr. Hurricanes meeting at the Red seats, section 17, of the Pepsi Coliseum. This has been deemed our meeting place every weekday for the kids and coaches.

Everything was in order today, and the team headed to the Rejean Lemelin rink for an exhibition game against the New Hampshire Nike Bauer Swarm. The coastal New Hampshire team is sponsored by Nike Bauer and is a team that the Junior Hurricanes could face later on in the tournament as they are in the same "B" bracket. (There are 3 brackets, "AA", "B", and "C").

Arriving at the rink at 8:30 a.m., the boys had 30 minutes to dress, all the while receiving a good pep talk from the coaching staff. Today's game started off different than the previous game - All the jitters were gone and the confidence of each boy having his own stick was evident. We could tell that there was a lot more jump in their stride, and that this would be a different style of game than yesterday's exhibition.

After a strong, but uneventful first period, a streaking Billy Wilson took a pass in the neutral zone and stepped around the defenseman to create a 2-on-1 with Danny Fredenburg going hard to the net. Wilson faked a shot and fed a perfect pass to Fredenburg, who slid it behind the Swarm tender to give the Jr. Hurricanes a 1-0 lead.

Next, Kenny Gillespie took the puck from just inside his own blue line on a turnover and skated end to end for the second game in row, tucking a nice shot past the goalie for a 2-0 lead. Minutes later, Gillespie stole the puck from a Swarm player deep in the New Hampshire end and had both T.J. Rich and Jonathan Avedesian in the slot. With a quick pass, Avedesian fired a slapshot past the tender for a 3-0 lead.

The boys were not done there.

Before the end of the second, Taylor Dugauy took a slap shot from the point and with three Hurricane players on the doorstep, Chris "pop" Tart tapped in the fourth goal of the frame, and the Jr. Canes held a seemingly insurmountable 4-0 lead going into the third period.

The third period was not without excitement, however.

Corey Hucker, showing his big-league speed, stopped a breakaway and was called for a questionable penalty. The result... a Swarm penalty shot.

Zach Fraser, a wall to this point in the game, tapped the goal post and met the Swarm player head-on. The Swarm player went to his backhand, and Fraser slid across and made the save. The Jr. Hurricanes went on to win their first game of 2006, 4-1 over their bracket rival New Hampshire Nike Bauer Swarm.

After that, the boys had some free time. They came to the hotel to enjoy some of the sights of Old Quebec. I went out with Fraser, Dugauy and Hucker to tour the Carnival (Quebec City's winter version of a g-rated Mardi Gras) and then saw the sights of Old Quebec. Many kids did homework and took a dip in the Palace Royal pool.

Friday night was the scene of a Jr. Hurricanes tradition in the Quebec City tournament. The players, parents, billet families and coaching staff took a trip to wonderful Mount Tourbillon for a get together and a dinner celebrating this great event.

Thanks to "Le Capitaine," this event is a tremendous thank you to the billets, parents and players for their contribution to this great tournament.



AAA Carolina JR Hurricanes



The highlight of the evening was a speech by team captain Corey Hucker, who gave a shout out to the absent GM from last year's 7-1-1 Jr. Hurricanes Squad, Doug Warf. He is warmly remembered and sadly missed. A great round of applause was held for GM Warf.

Next up: a day off and then a scrimmage against A-bracket Colorado Avalanche on Sunday Feb 12, in our final exhibition before our first tournament game Monday.



GAME SUMMARY (EXHIBITION GAME #2)

Period 1

None

Penalties

New Hampshire: (T. Missert) JR HURRICANES: (Bryan Moore)

Period 2

JR HURRICANES 1: D. Fredenburg (C. Tart) (B. Wilson)

JR HURRICANES 2: J. Dipaolo

JR HURRICANES 3: J. Avedesian (K. Gillespie) (T. Duguay)

JR HURRICANES 4: C. Tart (T. Universal) (J. Dipaolo)

Penalties

New Hampshire: (C. Merrill) New Hampshire: (K. Lajeunesse)

Period 3

New Hampshire1: J. Hume (C. Reagan) (C. Vittum)

Penalties

New Hampshire: (C. Merrill) JR HURRICANES: (T. Duguay) New Hampshire: (C. Reagan) JR HURRICANES: (T. Universal) JR HURRICANES: (T. Universal) New Hampshire (C. Merrill)

Final Score

New Hampshire Nike Bauer Swarm 1 JR HURRICANES 4

DAY 4: Saturday, February 11, 2006 : Day four saw the last day of "Carnivale" in Old Quebec and the old City was crowded with last minute festivities.

The boys had the day off so pond hockey, skiing or homework was the choice of the day. There was free Chocolate Chaud (hot chocolate) and jambon sandwiches (ham sandwiches) inside the walls of Old Quebec. Each year, the tournament plans their schedule around the Carnivale so that all in attendance can enjoy this historic tradition. From ice fishing to snow baths to 15-foot ice sculptures, the "Old City" is transformed into a winter wonderland.

The billet families and parents alike enjoyed the wonderful parade that caps off the night of Carnivale. The Mardi Gras-like parade has the streets packed - despite the minus-20 degree weather - and it is truly a wonderful sight.

DAY 5: Sunday, February 12, 2006 : On the morning of day five, the boys arrived at the Colisee and piled into the van for a trip to the Hockey Warehouse. A hockey lover's dream and a hockey parent's nightmare, the Hockey Warehouse is a huge mass of every hockey article possible. Rows upon rows of sticks, skates, laces, tape, shirts, bags, etc.

Austin Essery took advantage of the trip to purchase a new hockey bag, as his safety-pin job on his old bag did not make it through the baggage handlers' kid gloves. Many kids bought new sticks hoping for a goal or two in the game versus the Colorado Avalanche. After an hour, we were off to the mall to get ready for our third and final exhibition game against Colorado.

The AA-bracket Avalanche select their team through a playoff of the AA teams in Colorado. The Littleton team won again this year, and have represented the Avalanche for a few years now. Last year, the Littleton, Colorado team went on to win the U.S. Pee Wee Ice National Championship, and this year's team proved to be just as strong.

The game started off well for the Jr. Hurricanes, as a nice play by Thayer Universal at the Hurricanes' blue line sent the puck towards the Avalanche end, and Bryan Moore picked the puck off as the Littleton goaltender raced to poke check it away. Moore tucked it into the empty net. From then on, fatigue seemed to set in. The Colorado team scored on the next shift to tie it up, and the Jr. Hurricanes were pressed the rest of the game. The result was a tough 4 to 1 loss.

Again, this was an exhibition game against a stronger opponent, so we feel confident that our team is battle-ready for our run through the "B" bracket. The boys were given instructions to get some rest, eat right and go to bed early. Tomorrow is game one of the tournament - a big game vs. Suisse Romande at the Pepsi Colisee in front of thousands of spectators.

GAME SUMMARY (EXHIBITION GAME #3)

Period 1

Colorado 1: Heil (Janzen) (Ledford)

JR HURRICANES 1: B. Moore (T. Universal)

Penalties

Colorado: (Bohnsack)

Period 2

Colorado 2: Fleming (Shore)



AAA Carolina JR Hurricanes



Colorado 3: Fleming (Kehr) (Anderson)

Penalties

JR HURRICANES: (B. Moore)

Period 3

Colorado 4: Heil (Ledford) (Jones)

Penalties

None

Shots

Colorado: 1st (7) 2nd (11) 3rd (11) Total: 29

JR HURRICANES: 1st (6) 2nd (3) 3rd (0) Total: 9

Players of the game: T. Duguay, E. Moore, T. Wurman

Final Score

Colorado 4 JR HURRICANES 1

DAY 6: Monday, February 13, 2006 : Now the Magnificent Le Colisee. It was the boys' first game, and my first game at the Pepsi Colisee - a wonderful old building which was the site of many amazing hockey moments as I was growing up: the fantastic Stastny brothers - Peter, Anton and Marian - who for many years wowed the hometown crowd, the rivalries between the Montreal Canadiens and the Quebec Nordiques that always made the Stanley Cup playoffs memorable and for the past 47 years, the facility that gave the experience of a lifetime to thousands of pee-wee players from around the world.

One of those world-wide teams is a group of 14 boys from the African country of Morocco. A french-speaking country, Morocco becomes the first team from Africa to compete in the pee-wee tournament. They only recently put a small ice rink in a local mall, half the size of a normal rink. It has been in used for less than two months, and most of the kids are new to the sport. The team plays in the C bracket and in the interest of sportsmanship, the tournament does not keep score.

The Moroccan boys love the experience and choose to embrace the billet housing. One great moment came after a tournament game at Le Colisee. There were 15 minutes of extra time, and the boys from the Moroccan team had a NHL-style shootout. The Tournament Mascots tried to distract the goaltenders as the Moroccan shooters came down the ice. The story reminded me of Stormy during the mighty-mite shootouts. It was a great memory for these young hockey players.

FIRST TOURNAMENT GAME

Then came Suisse-Romande in Le Colisee in front of a few thousand people. The team was led through a small warm-up in the dressing room and a new team cheer was introduced for the tournament game. Influenced by the Godfather of Soul, James Brown, the boys were pumped and ready.

Twenty minutes before the game, we sat for a team picture. Every team in the tournament has a team photo taken before their first tournament game at Le Colisee. Then, a brief pep talk and the boys took the ice.

The game did not start off "textbook." Although the legs were going better than the previous game, the Suisse team was coming on strong. With a man in the penalty box, the Suisse team got on the board first with a power-play goal. A little later, Austin Essery showed he was on his game and unaffected by the earlier goal, making a beautiful save on a Suisse breakout.

First Period: Suisse-Romande 1 Hurricanes 0

The second period saw the Hurricanes come alive. Kenny Gillespie, showing his tournament-tested skill, took control of the game. Overpowering a Suisse player in the corner, Gillespie walked out and took a shot on net and the rebound bounced to a waiting T.J. Rich. Johnny on the spot, Rich tapped the puck in the net.

A few minutes later, Gillespie - taking a pass from Rich - walked around a defender and slipped it underneath the Suisse goaltender for a 2-to-1 Junior Hurricanes lead. Gillespie almost made it a 3-to-1 game with a trademark end-to-end-rush, however the Hurricanes were called for too many men on the ice and Gillespie's second goal of the frame was disallowed.

Second period: Hurricanes 2 Suisse-Romande 1

After an ice flood, the Hurricanes came back to the ice with confidence (there is no ice resurfacing during the 1st intermission). The boys kept the flow going and the puck in the Suisse end. Late in the game however, the Hurricanes again found themselves in penalty trouble. On a broken play with the man advantage, the Suisse found the back of the net to tie the game at two with five minutes to go, and the coaches found themselves trying to figure who the shootout shooters would be.

Kenny Gillespie had different plans.

With Jonathan Avedesian working the corners and T.J. Rich picking the players in front, Gillespie walked from behind the net and slid the puck on the ice past the Suisse goalie for the late 3-2 lead. The Jr. Hurricanes played like the real conference-leading Hurricanes, and never quit until the job was done.

Final Score: Hurricanes 3 Suisse-Romande 2

Our next tournament game will be in the winner's bracket on Friday. We will play the winner of the Austria versus Glenview (Canada) matchup. The Austria team is tough as they - along with the Junior Hurricanes - were in last year's B bracket Final Four. We have two scrimmages against AA bracket teams to get prepared for Friday.



AAA Carolina JR Hurricanes



On Tuesday, we play a fast team from Los Angeles and on Wednesday we will have an exhibition against CRSA (Canada). Hopefully, these two tests will prepare the boys for a big battle that will happen Friday at 9:15 a.m.

GAME SUMMARY (TOURNAMENT GAME #1)

Period 1

Suisse Romande 1: V. Pivron (N. Dozin) (A. Impose) 3:30

Penalties

JR HURRICANES: (B. Moore) 2:51, Suisse Romande: (S. Paulo) 4:34, JR

HURRICANES: (T.J. Rich) 8:13

Period 2

JR HURRICANES 1: B. Moore (C. Tart) (K. Gillespie) 0:52

JR HURRICANES 2: K. Gillespie (T.J. Rich) 4:18

Penalties

JR HURRICANES (C. Tart) 3:41, Suisse Romande (E. Antonietti) 4:12,

JR HURRICANES (A. Keith) 6:09,

Suisse Romande (J. DeVasconcelos) 9:04

Period 3

JR HURRICANES 3: K. Gillespie (T.J. Rich) 13:36

Penalties:

JR HURRICANES (T.J. Rich) 4:50, Suisse Romande (J. De Vasconcelos)

7:12, Suisse Romande (D. Vurlod) 8:21, JR HURRICANES (T.J. Rich)

8:57,

Suisse Romande (C. Boss) 12:40

Shots

Suisse Romande: 1st (9) 2nd (5) 3rd (7) Total: 21

JR HURRICANES: 1st (6) 2nd (10) 3rd (5) Total: 21

3 players of the game: T. Duguay, K. Gillespie, T.J. Rich

Final score

Suisse Romande 2 JR HURRICANES 3

DAY 7: Tuesday, February 14, 2006 : Today we got off to a quick start, as we had an early game at the Val Belair rink. The boys rose and were at Le Colisee early in the morning and off to Val Belair to face the L.A. hockey club. Los Angeles is in the AA bracket, and beat the Montreal Canadiens yesterday by a score of 4 -0 in a AA tournament game. Obviously, they would be a very tough opponent.

Both teams had to deal with some adversity - together - as all of our equipment arrived 20 minutes before game time in the same van. So I guess neither team had an excuse. Both teams were dressed and ready quickly and were on the ice by 9:05. Even Sean Blye, the slowest dresser in Raleigh, was on time for the warm-up.

The boys came out skating hard again, and L.A. kept the pressure up as well. Early on, it was evident that for the second game in a row our goaltending would be tremendous. The L.A. team tested Zachary Fraser, but he would not give an inch. The first period was score free and the teams were tied at zero into the second. After a miscue in the defensive zone in the second period, an L.A. player walked from the corner and took a couple of quick shots on Fraser. Zach stood tall, but the third rebound made its way over the goal line. L.A. took a 1-0 lead. The boys never quit though, and put some solid pressure on the L.A. team throughout the remainder of the period. With 9.5 seconds left and the draw outside the L.A. blueline, Kenny Gillespie slipped one past the L.A. center, deked around the defenman and rattled one off the post with 3 seconds left, but could not find the twine. So, after two, it was L.A. 1, Jr. Hurricanes 0.

The third was reduced to 10 minutes running time due to the late start, and the clock was counting down even before the puck was dropped. A sense of urgency set in. A couple minutes into the third, Corey Hucker picked up the puck on the left wing and raced over the blue line with Danny Fredenburg streaking to the net on a 2-on-1. Hucker made a beautiful pass to Fredenburg, and Fredenburg put a wrist shot TOP SHELF - a big-league shot past a diving goaltender - making the score Hurricanes 1, L.A. 1

Then - with momentum on the 'Canes side - Gillespie, Avedesian and Rich went to work again down low in the L.A. zone. Avedesian, to the right of the faceoff circle, attempted to make a pass to the middle. The goaltender went with the pass and the puck deflected off the defender and past the surprised L.A. goaltender to give the Jr. Hurricanes a 2-1 lead with 4 minutes to play.

The boys held on tight and staved off a hard attack from L.A. with the goaltender pulled. Fraser stopping everything sent his way. The result, a BIG Hurricanes win, 2-1. It is tough to have a big exhibition win, as the tournament games are what really matter, but beating a solid AA team proves that the Junior Hurricanes can compete with anyone.

For the second night in a row, the Jr. Hurricanes played like the big club. Despite going down by a goal in the game, the boys played hard and believed in themselves, and they continued working until the puck was in the net. Good Job boys, and a great win!

GAME SUMMARY (EXHIBITION GAME #4)

Period 1

None

Penalties



AAA Carolina JR Hurricanes



JR HURRICANES (T. Duguay), JR HURRICANES (C. Tart) L.A. Hockey Club (A. Reid)

Period 2

L.A. Hockey Club 1: W. Alberto (N. Nunez) (J. Finklestein)

Penalties

L.A. Hockey Club (G. Harr), L.A. Hockey Club (G. Harr), JR

HURRICANES (T. Wurman)

Period 3

JR HURRICANES 1: D. Fredenburg (C. Hucker) (T. Universal)

JR HURRICANES 2: J. Avedesian (K. Gillespie) (T.J. Rich)

Penalties

None

Shots

L.A. Hockey Club: 1st (12) 2nd (12) 3rd (4) Total: 28

JR HURRICANES: 1st (4) 2nd (2) 3rd (7) Total: 13

3 players of the game: T. Duguay, Z. Fraser, T.J. Rich

Final score

L.A. Hockey Club 1 JR HURRICANES 2

DAY 8 : Wednesday, February 15, 2006 : The 2006 Junior Hurricanes are now second all-time for wins in team history after defeating Campus CRSA, a local Quebec team, 9-1. The 2006 Junior Hurricanes now have a combined record of 4-2-0 and a tournament record of 1-0. The team can still catch last year's team if it wins the championship that eluded the '05 squad. The 2005 Junior Hurricanes finished with a combined record of 7-1-1 and a tournament record of 4-1.

Today's victory also marked the most lopsided victory in the Junior Hurricanes history. Campus CRSA is in the C bracket of the Pee-Wee division and much like the Hurricanes, who look forward to playing the teams like Compuware and the L.A. Hockey Club, this local team was very excited to play the Junior Hurricanes.

T.J. Rich led the way with 2 goals and 3 assists for 5 points. Other goal scorers included Bryan Moore (2), Jonathan Avedesian (2), and Billy Wilson, Danny Fredenburg and Sean Blye all tallied one a piece. The boys showed a lot of class and treated the Quebec team with a lot of respect.

Day 9 will bring a much tougher challenge. In the morning, the boys will have a practice to go over some areas that need improvement and then will have a chance to show what they learned as they meet the AA Anchorage Alaska team at the mall rink. Playing at the mall is always interesting, as there are typically large crowds to add to the distraction of a roller coaster that runs over the rink and a Ferris wheel spinning next to it. This game will be the ultimate tune-up for tomorrow's do-or-die tournament game, when the boys will face an Austrian team that was also in last year's final four.

GAME SUMMARY (EXHIBITION GAME #5)

Period 1

JR HURRICANES 1: T.J. Rich (J. Avedesian) (K. Gillespie)

C.R.S.A. 1: K. Moisan (J. Lajoie)

JR HURRICANES 2: (B. Moore)

JR HURRICANES 3: T.J. Rich (C. Tart)

Penalties

C.R.S.A. (A. Hamel)

Period 2

JR HURRICANES 4: J. Avedesian (T.J. Rich)

JR HURRICANES 5: B. Moore (M. Vollmin)

JR HURRICANES 6: D. Fredenburg (C. Hucker)

JR HURRICANES 7: S. Blye (C. Tart) (C. Duffy)

JR HURRICANES 8: J. Avedesian (B. Moore)

Penalties

C.R.S.A (J. Landry) JR HURRICANES: (K. Gillespie)

Period 3

JR HURRICANES 9: J. Avedesian (B. Moore)(K. Gillespie)

Penalties

C.R.S.A. (P. Lejeune) JR HURRICANES (C. Duffy)

Shots

C.R.S.A. : 1st (1) 2nd (1) 3rd (2) Total: 4

JR HURRICANES: 1st (10) 2nd (15) 3rd (15) Total: 40

3 players of the game: T.J. Rich, C. Tart, M. Vollmin

Final score

C.R.S.A 1 JR HURRICANES 9

DAY 9: Thursday, February 16, 2006 : The Jr. Hurricanes pulled double duty today with practice and a game. After meeting at Le Colisee, the team headed off to a practice rink to work some kinks out of the defensive zone and penalty kill schemes. The boys had a great practice, which included a game of baseball. The black team beat the white team, 5-4.



AAA Carolina JR Hurricanes



Throughout the week, a couple things have developed off the ice as well. T.J. Rich has emerged as the team's TV personality. Coach Brian Mehm is getting some great footage of T.J. interviewing the boys, parents, billets and opposing players. He has a knack for the job, and warns Canes TV color analyst Tripp Tracy that he is coming to take over his position. But don't worry Tripp, T.J. says he is waiting until his playing career is over.

Also, the boys' new pre-game chant is now being done all over the place: before and after the game, the hallways, hotels and in the vans. It is good to see and hear. Now on to the game!

Jr. Hurricanes vs. Anchorage Alaska:

The boys were pumped up to have another shot at a AA team to prove that the L.A. game was no fluke. The squad came out strong, as Tim Wurman broke out of his slump early. Wurman took a nice feed from Tart, and Rich and got his first goal of the tournament to give the Canes a 1-0 lead. However, the boys then fell into a lull and were hit with back-to-back goals to end the first down 2-1.

End of 1st Period: Alaska 2 Canes 1

After a harsh talking to, the boys responded well. Billy Wilson, playing a tremendous game, came down the left side and tucked a nice goal past the goaltender to tie the game at two. A few minutes later, Kenny Gillespie fired a shot to the left side. The puck bounced to an open Rich, who took his time and chipped it top shelf over the goalie's shoulder to give the 'Canes the lead back, 3-2.

Later in the period, Wurman, skating full speed down the right side, took a gorgeous pass from Bryan Moore, and bringing his stick all the way back, he took a Mark Messier slapper and slammed it to the far side for his second goal of the game. The boys were going strong.

End of the 2nd Period: Canes 4 Alaska 2

Alaska, down by two going into the third period, refused to quit. Responding with physical play, Alaska started to take it to the body a bit and seemed determined to make it a game. A quick goal by Alaska made it a one-goal game, but our boys stayed strong. However, things would get interesting. Gillespie reacted to the Alaska team's rough play and was hit with a checking penalty with five minutes to go. The opposition took advantage and scored a goal on a top-corner shot from the point. We were knotted up at four.

It didn't take long for the Jr. Hurricanes to respond. Corey Hucker held onto a nice pass from Wilson inside our blueline and streaked to a partial breakaway. An Alaska player tried to catch Hucker from the bench, but to no avail. As he was hauled to the ice, Hucker slipped the puck past the goaltender with two minutes to go. Canes 5 Alaska 4! It was also Hucker's first goal of the tournament.

Bryan Moore finished off the game with an empty-net goal. Again, the Jr. Hurricanes won the game the Carolina Hurricanes' way. They were down early and lost a lead late, but refused to quit. The team kept on going and somebody different has stepped up to win the game each day. The Jr. Hurricanes have truly been an inspiration.

Jr. Hurricanes 6 Alaska 4

Jr. Hurricanes 2006 record to date: 5 wins 2 losses

GAME SUMMARY (EXHIBITION GAME #6)

Period 1

JR HURRICANES 1: T. Wurman (C. Tart) (T.J. Rich)

Anchorage All Star 1: D. Howard (A. Wuthrich)

Anchorage All Star 2: A. Widmar (A. Wuthrich)

Penalties

Anchorage All Star (B Cooper)

Period 2

JR HURRICANES 2: B. Wilson (J. Dipaolo) (T. Universal)

JR HURRICANES 3: T.J. Rich (C.Hucker) (A. Keith)

JR HURRICANES 4: T. Wurman (B. Moore)

Penalties

JR HURRICANES (K. Gillespie) Anchorage All Star (D. Robert) JR

HURRICANES (T. Universal)

Period 3

Anchorage All Star 3: K. Simmons (A. Wuthrich) (J. Onstott)

DAY 10: Friday, February 17, 2006 : Tournament Game Number 2 - winning side, vs. Austria.

With most of the Hurricanes staff and Jr. Hurricanes parents watching back home at the RBC Center, the Jr. Hurricanes took the ice against the Austrians. After winning the toss in the first game, the Hurricanes lost the coin toss to the Austrians. The Hurricanes would wear their Red sweaters and be the visitors.

The game started off as expected, tight checking and few shots. The Austrians had a very good goaltender, and it would take a quality shot or a rebound to go past him. However, the Hurricanes' Zach Fraser was also up for the task in net - it would also take a quality shot for the Austrians to beat him. The rule of the day for the Hurricanes defense was, NO rebound.



AAA Carolina JR Hurricanes



The first period ended in a scoreless tie, but the young Hurricanes noted that the puck was in the Austrians' end, and they had confidence they were outplaying them. The second period saw the Jr. Canes jump on the scoreboard as Kenny Gillespie scored a power-play goal off a rebound in front of the net. After that, the Jr. Canes played lock-down defense to keep Austria from scoring.

Both teams a few penalties, but the Jr. Canes were the only ones able to capitalize. After an impassioned second intermission speech, the Jr. Canes came back to the ice prepared to maintain their one goal lead. They did just that. Though Austria had a few good scoring chances, Zach Fraser was too tough in net and shut out the hard fighting Austrian team. In the waning minutes, Austria pulled their goalie, allowing Gillespie to break through at center ice and net his second goal, icing the game with less than 15 seconds remaining. After the big win, the kids celebrated on and off the ice. However, the coaches spent many more hours at Le Colisee scouting possible opponents. We are now in the final four of the winner's bracket, but everyone knows it will take a top-notch performance to move on.

GAME SUMMARY (TOURNAMENT GAME #2)

Period 1

None

Penalties

Austria (P. Schonaklener) 0:50 Austria (L. Glasner) 4:25 JR

HURRICANES (K. Gillespie) 7:12

Period 2

JR HURRICANES 1: K. Gillespie (T. J. Rich) (T. Duguay) 6:27

Penalties

JR HURRICANES (B. Moore) 2:01 Austria (P. Koczera) 4:52 Austria (C. Ofner) 5:49

JR HURRICANES (T.J. Rich) 6:43 Austria (P. Schonaklener) 7:15

Period 3

JR HURRICANES 2: K. Gillespie (T. Universal) 14:31

Penalties

Austria (P. Koczera) 5:54 JR HURRICANES (T. Duguay) 14:02

Shots

Austria : 1st (4) 2nd (5) 3rd (9) Total: 18

JR HURRICANES: 1st (7) 2nd (6) 3rd (8) Total: 21

3 players of the game: T. Duguay, C. Hucker, K. Gillespie

Final score

Austria 0 JR HURRICANES 2

DAY 11: Saturday, February 18, 2006 : It is an early morning as we are up at 5:45 a.m. in order to have a coaches meeting before meeting the kids at Le Colisee at 7:00 a.m.. We wanted to make sure we were set to play our game in the final four of the winner's bracket, to be held this morning at 8:00 a.m. against the Connecticut Wolves. Connecticut is definitely a tough team that will take one of our best games to beat.

After arriving at the Coliseum, it was clear that the boys would not suffer from the early game time, as everyone was excited and ready to play. However, the first shot of the game snuck by Jr. Canes goalie Zach Fraser to give Connecticut a 1-0 lead. Connecticut had come out timidly, and had the Jr. Canes scored the first goal, the game would have been quite different. Connecticut striking first — very quickly — put the Jr. Canes on the defensive.

However, by the first intermission Kenny Gillespie was able to even things back up with a goal for the Jr. Hurricanes. The first intermission takes place at the bench, as an ice cut only happens during the second intermission. A few key points were detailed during the intermission, and the boys played their hearts out during the next two periods. Despite good pressure by the Junior Canes, Connecticut scored the lone second-period goal to take a 2-1 lead into the locker room for the second intermission.

Again, in the third period the Jr. Canes came out flying and dominated the period. A tying goal was found late in the third that knotted things up at two goals a piece. Though good pressure was evident for the rest of the period, the Jr. Canes could not score the winning goal and the game was forced into overtime. Just like the big Canes, we played a five-minute, four-on-four, sudden-death frame. Again, pressure was constant, but the Connecticut goalie withstood the barrage to send the game into a shootout.

In the shootout, the Junior Canes let things slip away. It was a valiant effort and the team definitely left everything on the ice. I feel that if we played Connecticut 10 times, we would probably win at least five, however, today the Connecticut Wolves were the better team and they moved on to the championship game of the winner's bracket.

Connecticut went on to win the title, defeating St. Hyacinthe 5-1 in the championship of the winner's bracket and defeating the Moncton Wildcats 6-2 in the overall championship. Taking the champions to a shootout definitely shows the Jr. Canes were - and are - good enough to win the "B" division title. To me, this proves last year was not a fluke. Great run boys!

GAME SUMMARY (TOURNAMENT GAME #3)

Period 1

Connecticut Wolves 1: J. MacGregor (A. Luzzy) 0:49

JR HURRICANES 1: C. Tart (B. Wilson) 1:12

Penalties



AAA Carolina JR Hurricanes



JR HURRICANES (K. Gillespie) 6:06

Period 2

Connecticut Wolves 2: J. Barre (J. Travaglino) (A. Luzzi) 9:13

Penalties

JR HURRICANES (T. Wurman) 8:18

Period 3

JR HURRICANES 2: C. Hucker (K. Gillespie) (T.J. Rich) 9:32

Penalties

Connecticut Wolves: (M. Flynn) 12:00

Overtime

None

Penalties

None

Shoot out

Connecticut Wolves 3: A. Luzzi

Shots

Connecticut Wolves: 1st (4) 2nd (8) 3rd (5) OT (1) Total: 18

JR HURRICANES: 1st (4) 2nd (4) 3rd (5) OT (3) Total: 16

3 players of the game: Z. Fraser, C. Hucker, C. Tart

Final score

Connecticut Wolves 3 JR HURRICANES 2

DAY 12: Sunday, February 19, 2006 : Today we traveled back from Quebec City to Raleigh. It was definitely a long day, but it was a good time to reflect on the 12 days spent in Quebec.

Losses are never easy to take (despite what anyone says), but we knew we lost to a good team. However, it was a good team that was beatable and we knew that we gave them a great fight. I am very excited about how North Carolina has become a reputable hockey area whose reputation only continues to grow. This year's team showed that last year's run was not a fluke, and that we look to be contenders from here on out.

Though we lost in the "B" bracket, we did have some big wins along the way. Our biggest win was probably an exhibition game against the L.A. Hockey Club who plays in the "AA" bracket. The L.A. Hockey Club went on to advance to the championship game of the winner's bracket, but before reaching that point, they did lose an exhibition game to the "B" bracket Junior Canes. That is the beauty of tournaments like this. Though you might place a lot of importance on "tournament games," the exhibition games can be used to gain the respect of the entire hockey community.

Going 6-3 overall and 2-2 against "AA" teams truly proves that North Carolina has great hockey, both in the NHL and the youth ranks. I am excited about our run, but I am more excited about where these and other North Carolina kids are headed.

