




Team 2010 / Equipe 2010



No	Name / Nom	Position	Coaches / Instructeurs
30	Forslund, Matthew	G	Paul Strand – GM/Head Coach – Gérant/Instr. Chef Mitch Hodgkiss – Asst. Coach – Instr. Adjoint Brian Mehm – Asst. Coach – Instr. Adjoint
33	Murch, Cody	G	
2	Siemens, Tanner	D	
3	Hatchett, Ford (A)	D	
4	Essery, Linda	F	
10	Moore, Kyle	F	
11	Lancaster, Mackenzie	F	
13	Coley, Garret	F	
14	Worrall, Ian	F	
17	Hirschault, Eric	F	
19	Skaluba, Nicholas	D	
21	Winch, Hayden	F	
26	Betts, Ward (C)	F	
28	Romel, Tyler (A)	F	
55	Glabicki, Mitchell	D	
88	Wilkins, Joshua	F	
91	Heisse, Phil	D	
98	Ingersoll, Bradley	F	





Team 2010/ Equipe 2010 Statistics / Statistiques*

No	Name Nom	GP PJ	G B	Asst Aide	Pts	P.I.M PÉN
88	Wilkins, Josh	9	8	3	11	2
26	Betts, Ward	9	2	7	9	2
13	Coley, Garrett	9	3	3	6	8
19	Skaluba, Nicholas	9	0	4	4	6
21	Winch, Hayden	9	3	1	4	2
28	Romel, Tyler	9	1	3	4	0
17	Hirschhaut, Eric	9	2	1	3	8
2	Siemens, Tanner	9	1	1	2	6
4	Essery, Linda	9	1	1	2	4
3	Hatchett, Ford	9	0	1	1	2
11	Lancaster, MacKenzie	9	0	1	1	0
91	Heisse, Phil	9	0	1	1	2
10	Moore, Kyle	9	0	0	0	0
14	Worrall, Aidan	9	0	0	0	2
55	Glabicki, Mitchell	9	0	0	0	4
98	Ingersoll, Bradley	9	0	0	0	2
30	Matthew Forslund	9	0	0	0	0
33	Cody Murdh	9	0	0	0	0
TOTAL			21	27	48	50

*Statistiques tournoi et match hors-concours
Tournament and exhibition games statistics

Game result / Résultat des matchs					
Date	Exhibition Hors-Concours Tournament Tournoi	Team Équipe	Score	Team Équipe	Score
Feb. 10	Exhibition	JR HURRICANES	5	Long Island NY	3
Feb. 10	Exhibition	Slovakia	3	JR HURRICANES	1
Feb. 14	Exhibition	JR HURRICANES	0	NJ Devils	1
Feb. 15	Tour	JR HURRICANES	2	Anaheim Ducks	0
Feb. 17	Tour	Atlanta Fire	2	JR HURRICANES	5
Feb. 18	Tour	JR HURRICANES	3	Québec Ouest	6
Feb. 19	Exhibition	JR HURRICANES	2	Colorado Thunderbirds	6
Feb. 19	Exhibition	Semiahmoo	6	JR HURRICANES	1
Feb. 20	Exhibition	JR HURRICANES	1	Austria	2



AAA Carolina JR Hurricanes



2010 Tryouts / Camp de sélection 2010

The tryouts were held during the week end of Sept. 19th and 20th. 40 players showed up to be part of the 9th Edition of the JR Hurricanes.

On Saturday the tryouts were at the Garner ice rink in the afternoon. No cuts were done on that day and all the players were invited to participate to the second part who was at RBC Center, home the Carolina Hurricanes. At 7:00AM all the players hit the ice for the last chance to demonstrate all their skills and talents. After one hour and thirty minutes of ice time the selection board (GM and Head Coach Paul Strand, Asst Coaches Brian Mehm and Mitch Hodgkiss and Billet Captain, Alain Desfosses) got reunited to select the final members of the team.

Two players from the 2009 Edition are back with the team, Joshua Wilkins and Tyler Romel.

Also this 2010 Edition of the JR Hurricanes will have two girls participating at the event, Mackenzie Lancaster and Linda Essery. For the Essery's family, it will be the third member of the family to be represented at the Pee Wee Tournament. The first two were Mark in 2005 and Austin in 2005 and 2006. Garret Coley had his brother Daniel in 2006 and Aidan Worrall had his brother Ian in 2007 and Kyle Moore had his brother Bryan participating in the Tour in 2006.

The selection board would like to thanks all the players for their participation in this year tryouts and wish to all of you the best. Also, thank you to the parents for your time.

The final thanks are going to: Eugene Obukhovski, Devin Warfield and Luis Gimenez-Madill (all members of the 2008 Edition) for the your time on the ice with the players and to Chuck Warfield and Alex Romel being coaches during the tryouts and your support at registration desk. Your help was greatly appreciated.

There are the names of the 2010 Edition of the JR Hurricanes with the name of their home team.

Forwards

Ward Betts - Jr Canes AAA
Josh Wilkins - Jr. Canes AAA
Eric Hirshhaut - Jr. Canes AAA
Aiden Worrall - Jr. Canes AA

Tyler Romel - Jr Canes AAA
Hayden Winch - Charleston Wolverines Bantam AA
Kyle Moore - Charlotte Checkers AA

Bradley Ingersoll - Charlotte Checkers AA
Linda Essery - Jr. Canes AA
Garrett Coley - Jr. Canes AAA

Defense

Phil Heisse - Hampton Roads AA
Ford Hatchett - East Coast Eagles AA

Nicholas Skaluba - Jr. Canes AAA
Mackenzie Lancaster - Charlotte Checkers AA

Tanner Seimens - Jr. Canes AAA
Mitchell Glabicki - Jr. Canes AAA

Goaltenders

Matthew Forslund - Junior Canes AAA

Cody Murch - Junior Hurricanes AAA



2010 Daily Reports / Journal de bord 2010



For the ninth consecutive year, the Carolina Hurricanes are sending a team to the Quebec International Pee Wee Hockey Tournament. The Pee

Wee team is comprised of 18 youth hockey players (ages 11 and 12) from the Carolinas, who will be led and coached by Canes Youth and Amateur coordinator Paul Strand.

Throughout the tournament, Strand will be blogging to offer insight on the team's play, countless experiences from the historic city, the tales and triumphs of individual players and more. Over the nine years of play in the tournament, the Carolina Hurricanes squad has become very competitive and will once again be viewed as a contender.

Thanks for reading and come back often!

Quebec: Jr. Canes Hit the Road

Feb 10, 2010 :Once again the weather and travel have provided the drama needed to begin this annual pilgrimage to the beautiful 400-year-old Remparts of Quebec City. With Mother Nature dumping buckets of snow on the entire Northern states from Minnesota to New England, the past 48 hours have been met with some trepidation. Watching the weather channel religiously to see exactly what course of action we should take in regards to our flights. Do we switch from LaGuardia to O'Hare? Or do we stay put? When do we make the decision to switch, if at all? So today we are just happy to be en route to our Quebec City destination.

The decision is never an easy one when you are transporting eighteen 11- and 12-year-olds. Switching flights might mean getting split up and who knows what else will happen? If you switch from New York to Chicago, will there not be the same delays and cancellations? Anyways, American, who cancelled their flights to New York, made the decision for us and we were rebooked through Chicago.

This year we head to Quebec with a couple of signed jerseys, one for the tournament and the other for our billet aptain, Alain Desfosses. The jerseys demonstrate the history members of our organization have in the Carnival of Quebec as it is signed by Hurricanes Associate Head Coach Ron Francis, Assistant GM Jason Karmanos and players Chad LaRose, Tim Gleason, Sergei Samsonov, Jiri Tlusty an Tom Kostopoulos, all of whom have fond memories of playing in the tournament from their youth. While Kostopoulos was signing the jerseys this week he remarked that his team had won the tournament the year he played and that is was a tremendous moment from his youth hockey days,one he will never forget.

Hopefully this week you will hear John Forslund talk about the trip on FS Carolinas, as his son Matthew is making the trek to Quebec as one of the goaltenders of this year's squad. Matthew, who has been a Carolina Hurricanes summer camper for years and currently plays on the Junior Hurricanes Pee Wee AAA team, has been steady as a rock this season and is looking forward to the experience, including meeting the French Canadian billet families. John has been getting the run-down from his on air partner, Tripp Tracy, who also attended this tournament as a youth goaltender and understands fully what Matthew will be facing this week. Interestingly, Tripp was also the coach of the Pee Wee Junior Hurricanes Quebec team in 2002.

Former Quebec Junior Hurricanes have also begun to make some headlines in the hockey world. Two-time player Kenny Gillespie headed to Sidney Crosby's alma mater, Shattuck St. Mary's, and has blossomed. Last year he was drafted in both the Ontario Hockey League and the United States Hockey league (USHL). Look for big things in the future from the former East Coast Eagle.

Connor Wilson, another two-time goaltender, is playing this year in the USHL for the Chicago Steel. Wilson left Raleigh soon after heading to Quebec with the Junior Hurricanes to attend Prep School. He then decided to make the jump this past season to the USHL and is also garneringsome strong NCAA Division I attention.

This year's kids will be no different then the countless former Pee Wee tournament participants that have found their place on the rosters of the Carolina Hurricanes and other NHL teams. Their memories of this trip and tournament will eclipse any youth hockey memory. Hopefully one of these young players will be signing jerseys or recounting their stories on TV to other hopefuls down the road.

Quebec: Poutine and Shootouts

February 12 : Yesterday the team had their first glimpse of Le Colisee. We arrived in the morning for registration in weather that was mild compared to what we usually experience during our time in Quebec City. Le Colisee didn't disappoint, even the "Premier match" between two CC level Quebec teams had 500 fans cheering the teams on. Vive le Pee Wee du Carnival.

After registration, the team headed back to the hotel and took a little walk through the St. Jean gate, to the Hotel Frontenac and the a short sightseeing tour of the St. Lawrence Seaway. The immense St. Lawrence told the tale of the mild winter Quebec city was experiencing, as the flowing water could be seen where normally the ice was 24 inches thick at this time of year.

After an hour walk around the old city, the coaching staff took the kids to experience their first rite of passage of the Quebec Pee Wee Tournament - POUTINE! This Canadian delicacy is sure to add the pounds and raise the cholesterol level, but boy is it delicious. First you take some French fries and add cheese curds. Then you splash some hot gravy over top to melt the cheese a bit and voila, as the French say, you have Poutine.



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Chez Ashton is a franchise that does this dish well and adds its own personal touch. They have added all sorts of things to the Poutine, including sausage, hot dogs, ground beef and green peas. I like to add white vinegar for a little tangy flavor. Each and every year the Pee Wee team consumes its body weight in Poutine, and last year my 10-year-old son Braden almost ate the city of Quebec out of its supplies, setting a record in Poutine consumed in a 12-day span.

So once we got that out of the way, we headed to the Patrick Poulin arena for our first practice in Quebec. This went off with out a hitch and we were very thankful that all the gear arrived safely and on time. A simple flow practice, some breakouts and power play was the order of the day. However, we also spent some time on the shootout. After losing in a shootout the past few years we figured it was high time we figured out who had the moves and who did not.

There were some beautiful moves from many players. Josh Wilkins has some impressive shots, but the final four came down to Nicholas Skaluba, Mackenzie Lancaster, Ford Hatchett and Linda Essery. At the start of the second round, Essery flew past me shouting "now the pressure's on" and promptly put one in off the post. In the end Essery met the pressure head on and won the shootout in fine fashion. On Day 3 we have games against Long Island and then we meet a strong Slovakia team in a couple of exhibition games.⁷

Quebec: A Strong Start

February 13 :Friday was a very eventful day. The team was going to finally see what the hockey would be like in Quebec City. After years of dreaming and six months of anticipation, the day was finally here for the kids to step on the ice in the great white north.

As a team they had only been together for a couple of scrimmages against the Bantam AAA Junior Hurricanes team, which is made up almost entirely of former Quebec attendees, so except for learning some things about the team's work ethic, the rest was totally left to the imagination.

Hurricanes vs. Long Island Titans

The first game would be against the Long Island Titans. The Titans are new to the tournament and their kids were ready to go well before game time. They were a good first team to start with as they were not the strongest, but good enough that a strong work ethic was needed to put together a convincing victory, but it also allowed for the team to get some systems down and some confidence up.

1-0 Canes

The Junior Hurricanes scored first as they were buzzing right from the start. Linda Essery has a nose for the net and during tryouts she scored an astounding four goals the first day and seven overall for the three-day showcase. On the first goal, she did what she does best. Mitchell Glabicki took the puck through the neutral zone and got the puck deep, the massive Garrett Coley bulldogged his way past the defender for the rebound and slid it out to the slot where Bradley Ingersoll took a swipe and redirected to Essery on the side of the net. A simple flip of the backhand and Essery scored the first goal the 2010 Quebec season.

On the bench, Associate Head Coach Mitch Hodgkiss jumped up and down laughing as he was hoping Essery would bring her touch and in the stands, proud papa and third-time Quebec attendee (both sons, Mark and Austin are alumni), could barely keep his video camera still as he cheered for the johnny-on-the-spot score.

2-0 Canes

Shortly after, Eric Hirschhaut nicely tipped a face-off through the Titans center's leg on the right side of the goaltender and slammed a shot that squeaked through the legs and trickled to the goal line where Tyler Romel slid the puck easily across the goal line.

3-0 Canes

Then it was time for the Josh Wilkins show. The second-year player, along with linemates Garrett Coley and captain Ward Betts, had been dominant the entire game to this point and the puck began to go in. Mackenzie Lancaster kept the puck in at the point and Wilkins picked it up in the corner to the right of the goalie and dangled through a defender and roofed the puck on the short side, a beautiful goal scorer's goal.

4-1 Canes

The second period was more of the same. After the Titans scored a goal to make it 3-1, the Hurricanes went on the power play and this time both Lancaster and Coley got in on the action again. Coley took a pass on the wall and dished it to Lancaster at the point. A knee-high slap shot hit the goalie and landed at the feet of Wilkins, who slid it past the tender for his second of the game.

Canes win 5-1

Wilkins then continued his magic with one of the most beautiful goals in the nine years of the Junior Canes participation in Quebec. Coming down the left side, Wilkins twisted and turned past one defender after another and slipped out from the left corner on his backhand, taking his stick blade and circling the puck with his stick in full motion like he was going to pass to the point, Wilkins hammered a gorgeous backhand through the goaltender's pads for the hat trick. Amazing.

Hurricanes vs. Slovakia

After an hour-and-a-half break where the team went for their second helping of poutine and an introduction to the record number of parents along for the trip, the team headed back to the Val Belair rink to suit up for a much tougher game against the Slovakia AA bracket team.

It is always nice for the kids to get to play against European or Canadian teams as they do not get that chance very often, and playing a team of Slovakia's calibre is a bonus. A nice surprise is that we managed to keep up with them very nicely and had them on the ropes for a couple of periods.

1-0 Canes

The Jr. Canes started the scoring as Bradley Ingersoll slid the puck around the boards behind the net where Hayden Winch, from Charleston, South Carolina, was waiting. Winch, a big forward playing up at the bantam level in SC, picked the puck up, muscled it around the left side and slammed it past the goalie against the post. With a hop in his step and a Chad LarRse celebration, Winch put the team on the scoreboard first.



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1-1.

The Canes kept the pace in the second period, but Slovakia did not stop. After a too many men call, the Slovaks managed to finally get one by goalie Matthew Forslund to tie the game halfway through the second.

2-1 Slovakia

Going into the third, the Junior Canes did not stop, but the Slovaks played a solid game and took advantage of a pass up the middle to score another goal that bounced around like plinko.

Slovakia wins 3-1

A few minutes later they added an insurance goal and the it looked like that was all the team had left in the gas tank.

It was a good first day, one very good win and one solid loss to a very good team. Up next is our off day. The Carnival is tops on the list as most folks are heading down to the Plains of Abraham to take in the sights, do some sliding, see the ice sculptures and eat some Maple Syrup dipped in snow and wrapped around a stick...yummmmm.

After that we will head to the outdoor rink for some pond hockey and perhaps a glimpse at the next Alexandre Picard.

Quebec: Final Preparations

February 14 :It was a typical weekend of fun here for the team in Quebec. Saturday was the last day of the Carnival and it is also an off day for the team. On Friday night the team gathered at Mount Tourbillon, where all the billet families, players, parents and coaches get together for dinner and an introduction of the team as a whole.

This has been a special night in the Junior Hurricanes tradition for many seasons now. Every year we have the chalet at the top of a ski resort to ourselves, but this year we shared it with our nemesis, The Hershey Bears. Initially it put a rattle into the night for our host Alain Desfosses, but it settled down quickly and everything went according to plan. Maybe this is the change of events that will push us past Hershey in the final.

Saturday morning most of the kids hit the Carnival on the Plains of Abraham. I caught a glimpse of Matthew Forslund, Mackenzie Lancaster and family heading down the mini ice Luge set up this year. I think Matt took a spill somewhere along the way, but he seemed unfazed.

Around 1 p.m. it was time for the outdoor rink. Each kid spends hours each year up here on the outdoor rink and a couple of years ago we decided to make a bigger event of it on Saturday afternoon. Since it is a day off it is not mandatory, but most of the kids and billets show up. This is usually a great learning experience for the team as they tend to come into the outdoor game very cocky and then the French kids show them that in POND hockey, you have to want to get the puck all the time. There is no sitting back. If you do not go get the puck, then most of the time you do no have the puck. It's the law of the jungle. There is no system and no coach. It is simply "go get the puck and get the puck to the net". These games usually end in a lopsided French team victory.

Sunday the kids went to the Hockey Warehouse and then headed off to the mall for three hours of running around prior to our third exhibition game against Charlesbourg, a local Quebec team.

Charlesbourg ended up not showing up but we managed to convince the AA New Jersey Devils team that was playing before us to stick around for another game. The games at the mall are only 45 minutes long so they should not be too tired.

However, our team was certainly feeling the effects of a long two days of pond hockey and running around and it was good to play a very solid New Jersey team. Our legs looked tired and it was quiet on the bench for most of the game.

We managed to stick in pretty close and a few nice opportunities by Winch and Hirschhaut almost got the team on the scoreboard, but the puck was not going in for us today. New Jersey managed a knuckle puck of a shot in the third period to score the only goal of the game as the defense and the goaltending of Cody Murch were solid. However that one goal was enough for New Jersey to take the game with a 1-0 win.

A mandated night off from the outdoor rink, a 9 p.m. curfew and a rest at the hotel this morning with a good breakfast was the agenda for last night and this morning as we head into our first tournament game against Anaheim. We have three games under our belt and some solid play so far hopefully we have all the kinks out and we will have the team revved up and ready to go.

Quebec: Jr. Canes Earn Shutout in First Game

February 15 : Woohoo! It is always good to get that first game under our belt at Le Colisee. Today was the first tournament game after three solid exhibition games and it is always a different feel about it. Just the sounds and sights of Le Colisee, the Poutine, Lafleur Hot dogs and the catchy pee-wee tournament song that you cannot get out of your head. Vive Le Pee-wee Du Carnival!

The kids came back to the Hotel at 9:00 a.m., rested and did homework in their parents' room. At 11:00 a.m. we headed back to Le Colisee two hours prior to our game. We then sat and watched Atlanta play Slovenia in their first round tournament game. We would play one of these two teams depending on the wins and losses of both their game and ours. Atlanta won the game 6-3. Atlanta heads to the winner bracket and Slovenia to the loser bracket.

Hurricanes vs. Anaheim Jr. Ducks



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The team then headed to the locker room to get dressed, stretch and warm up. They have to be ready 20 minutes before the game in time for pictures. The team always gets pictures prior to the first game at Le Colisee. The tournament officials then gather the coaching staffs of each team together for the puck flip to determine the benches and team colors.

I had the choice of flip and choose the wrong side, of course. Anaheim fell into my lap though as they took the home bench and white jerseys. The away benches are closer to the dressing rooms and we prefer that advantage. We also have our black third jerseys this year instead of the red ones and we were eager to show them off to Le Colisee crowd. So we got our benches and our black jerseys, it was a good start.

The game started out very typical for our team. We had the puck in the Anaheim end for most of the first period. We kept the pressure on and were getting many chances, but were very nervous around the net. Shots were weak and rushed when we had good scoring chances. Also, unlike the first game, we were not using the points very much.

The second period was more of the same. The goaltending of Matthew Forslund was solid and all shots on net were smothered. We kept the pressure on, but no luck in getting the puck behind a very solid and rather large Anaheim goaltender.

During the ice cut between the second and third, coach Mitch Hodgkiss made the team aware that they could use the points more as Anaheim was collapsing their wingers down low and leaving our points wide open. Sure enough, the kids went out and fed the point for multiple shots to begin the third period. This moved the Anaheim wingers up the boards more and we started to control the puck down low for longer periods. It was only a matter of time.

1-0 Canes

Garret Coley, Ward Betts and Josh Wilkins worked the puck to the right of the goalie and Betts slid it out to Coley in the slot. Coley took a shot and Wilkins grabbed the rebound and slammed it past the tender for a 1-0 lead 2:58 seconds into the final frame. We have been in close games like this before, last year in a disappointing loss to this same Anaheim team, and we were very happy to get the first goal.

2-0 Canes

Sticking to the same formula, the kids saw the benefit of getting the puck to the points and the shots kept coming and the Anaheim team kept running around. A little under five minutes later, Josh Wilkins and Nicholas Skaluba battled for the puck along the boards and managed to get it to Phil Heisse. Waiting on the point, Heisse riffled a shot towards the Anaheim net. While it was still on its way, Eric Hirschhaut got his stick on it and tipped it past the Anaheim goalie for an insurance goal and some relief.

It wasn't over yet as Anaheim now put the pressure on the Canes and started getting the puck deeper in our zone. With three minutes left Garrett Coley put Anaheim on the power play and with two minutes left Anaheim called a timeout and pulled their goalie. Six-on-four would put the pressure on us even more.

However, an acrobatic Forslund was outstanding, stopping five or six point-blank shots like Grant Fuhr in the mid-1980's for the Edmonton Oilers.

Moments later Nicholas Skaluba took another penalty and made it a six-on-three advantage for Anaheim. Tension was thick in the air and we were very thankful for a two-goal lead. Again, Forslund stood on his head and pulled one shot in after another, diving and leaping as Anaheim peppered him. It was a tense last few moments, but the penalty killing unit and goalie stood up to the challenge.

At the buzzer, the victory could be summed up in Forslund's reaction as he jumped up and down skating full speed to the bench to congratulate the team. Usually it is the team rushing to the goalie, but Forslund beat them to the punch. This was only the second shutout in tournament play for a Carolina Jr. Hurricanes goaltender. The first was Zach Fraser in 2006. Congrats Matthew and Congrats Junior Canes!

Canes Win 2-0

Next up is the Atlanta Fire as they won against Slovenia. We will suit up against them on Wednesday, February 17.

Quebec: Canes Advance with 5-2 Win

February 18 : First order of the day was to call my son Braden back in Raleigh before he headed off for school to wish him a happy 11th birthday. He has made the trip the past two seasons to Quebec and loves it up here in snow and cold. Happy Birthday Braden! This year he opted for the Black Eyed Peas at the RBC Center this Friday over the Great White North.

Today was game number two of the tournament. This game is always the scariest because it is the first game we can be eliminated from tournament play and no one wants to leave after two games. We would be playing an arch rival of the teams out of Carolina, the Atlanta Fire.

The Fire have been a strong program for many years now in the Southeast District and have handed many a loss to the teams from Raleigh, Charlotte and Charleston. I am sure most folks from back home would like to see nothing less than a huge victory.

Hurricanes vs. Atlanta Fire

The Hurricanes would need to have some strategy to control the Fire. They have a very solid team and a high-flying first line that, if allowed to get off to a fast start, would gain confidence quickly and dominate the game. Matching lines is not something we like to do normally, but today we would see how it worked.



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It worked beautifully. Against the Junior Hurricanes defensive pairing of Nicholas Skaluba and Phil Heisse, the Atlanta big line of Crawford, Mackracken and Pearson could not generate any offense early and frustration set in quickly. In their first game against Slovenia the Atlanta trio scored early and often en route to a 6-3 victory.

Another key was to get on the score board quickly and not let Atlanta get any life. This happened very quickly as the Hurricanes got a power play five minutes into the game. A blast from Mackenzie Lancaster from the point was a rocket, shoulder high, that Josh Wilkins tipped out of the air, beginning the celebrations. As the line came flying past the bench for high fives, the referees talked in the corner.....NO goal. High Stick.

However, the kids went right back out and did not let it get them down. Ward Betts got the puck to Skaluba at the point who took a nice wrist shot to the far post where Wilkins was once again waiting with his stick, this time just a foot off the ground, for a nice tip past the tender.

1-0 Canes

A few minutes later the line of Betts, Coley and Wilkins kept the pressure on and were working the puck around beautifully. Betts to Wilkins, Wilkins to Betts, to Coley, back to Betts and then back to Coley in front and Coley fired one past the Atlanta goalie from the high slot.

2-0 Canes

We couldn't keep the skill of Crawford off the board all game. In the second period, Atlanta was handed a power play and Crawford picked the puck up in the neutral zone and came down the left side. At the top of the circle he hammered a shot through the legs of the defender that the goalie Cody Murch could not pick up and it ended up in the net.

2-1 Canes

The line of Eric Hirschhaut, Hayden Winch and Tyler Romel was one of those tapped to control Atlanta's big line. Sometimes when you are focused on shutting down another team's top line you are so focused on that job that the offense just starts to come. In the second period, this was just the case. The trio had Atlanta hemmed in their own zone and Romel got the puck to Hirschhaut in the slot with Winch in front of the goalie. Hirschhaut then fired a bullet of a shot to the top corner in what could have been one of the hardest shots this tournament has seen.

3-1 Canes

After a short break, the kids could smell the victory heading into the final frame. All we needed to do was keep the pressure on and not lose sight of the game plan. After two goals by the Coley, Betts and Wilkins line it was time for Hirschhaut, Romel and Winch to match the feat.

The line kept the puck once again hemmed in the Atlanta zone. Romel got the puck to Winch who dished it to Hirschhaut again at the face-off dot on the right side this time and Hirschhaut let another laser fly. Top shelf right next to the peanut butter. Another beautiful shot by Hirschhaut for his second of the game.

4-1 Canes

We were not done yet as Betts decided that he was not going to be left out of the goal column. Betts added a fifth goal slamming in a rebound of Wilkins' late in the third period.

5-1 Canes

This was truly a team effort. The young line of Aiden Worrall, Bradly Ingersoll, Linda Essery and Kyle Moore did their jobs well and kept the puck in the Atlanta zone. They were buzzing and cycling and made it difficult for the second and third lines of the Fire to pick up the slack for their top line. The defense was outstanding. Ford Hatchett, Mitchell Glabicki, Lancaster and Tanner Siemens all did the little things right and along with Heisse and Skaluba kept Atlanta to 17 shots total.

Final Score - 5-2 Canes

Next up we will not have the home crowd behind us as we play a local Quebec team today at 3:30 p.m. - the Quebec Quest Ambassadors.

Quebec: Canes' Rally Falls Just Short

February 19 : It wasn't the end we were hoping for but it has been one heck of a trip so far and the kids never gave up. We brought the team to the hotel in the morning and for the first time ever we took them all to the Ste. Anne Du Beaupre Falls. This is one of the most beautiful places in Quebec and is a short 10-minute ride north of the city.

The parents caravanned the kids out to frozen waterfall and with minimal walking around the kids and parents witnessed a phenomenal site. The water still rushes over the falls and sprays water at the bottom that freezes into a huge mound at the foot of the falls. Below us we can see countless people climbing the mound and sliding down to the bottom. High above them from a suspension bridge we can see the vast St. Lawrence Seaway and the Ile D'Orleans in the distance. Amazing. Hurricanes vs. Quebec Quest Ambassadors.

We arrived at Le Colisee at the normal time and the team was prepared and ready to go. However the game did not start the way we wanted to.

We did not have a chance to see the Quebec Quest team play prior, but it became very apparent that they had done some scouting on us. They were matching some lines from the start and their big top player, Maxime Poulin, was all over the place.

Our team was doing some unusual things from the start, allowing the Quebec team free skating in the neutral zone and easy entry into the defensive zone. They were getting some easy shots on net and pressure on each and every shift. Perhaps it was nerves or perhaps we were just tired, but before you knew it was 3-0 for the Quebec team.



AAA Carolina JR Hurricanes



However there was no quit in our team. Late in the second period and on the penalty kill, a beautiful pass to Josh Wilkins sent him in alone and he fired the puck wide of the net. Undaunted, he kept going and 20 seconds later he received a second beautiful breakaway pass from Ward Betts and was sent in alone, where he made a beautiful move set the goalie flying to the left before tucking it in the back of the twine with 14 seconds left in the second.

In the third period we came out flying. The team would never quit and Garrett Coley made it 3-2 with a nice shot from his office in the slot. We kept the pressure on and then ran into penalty trouble. Already down a man, Wilkins dove for a loose puck at the goalie and was given a penalty for goaltender interference. The puck was loose and it was some good heart by Wilkins to try and jam it in.

The Quebec team then made some great plays on a very strong power play and increased their lead to 4-2. Again, the team showed no quit.

After the coaching staff moved Nicholas Skaluba up to forward, he clicked on his first shift with Eric Hirschhaut and Hayden Winch. In a two-on one, Skaluba faked a shot and sent the puck easily over to Winch who fired to the back of the net to make it 4-3.

It was amazing to see the kids keep going despite being down three early. The heart of the southern kids was awesome to see. With the pressure on and a sure goal in sight to tie it up, the referee's made a suspect call and awarded a goal that seemed to be under the Hurricanes' goalie with two minutes left to give Quebec a 5-3 lead. Then, with our goalie pulled, they added an empty-net goal for a 6-3 final.

It was a good run for the team and it has been a wonderful trip so far. There were tears after the game, but the tournament is known for giving the kids an amazing experience. They were quickly trading pins 10 minutes after the game.

Today we have some more hockey as we have two exhibition games against some very good teams. First up are the Colorado Thunderbirds and then we are on face to Semiahmo, a team from British Columbia. Tomorrow we will finish the games with a tilt against the Austrian team.

Great job Junior Canes.

Quebec: Another great year

February 23 : Another great year has come and gone for the Carolina Hurricanes Quebec Pee-wee team and again the tournament proves to be much more than hockey games. This is not simply a hockey tournament folks, this is a cultural experience and there just happens to be a little hockey played.

It starts out the same as all tournaments. There is a tryout and the team is picked. We warn the parents that this not a normal tournament, but you really won't understand until you get there. Some scoff a bit and like all teams of 11 and 12 year olds that head off to this tournament they go with dreams of winning the whole shebang. The talk is always of defeating the Hershey Bears to avenge the losses of the past or getting to play a strong team like Detroit Compuware or LA Selects. Or even Perhaps an exhibition game against the Germans or the Swiss. This is the build up as they get on the plane to Montreal and then the bus from Montreal to Quebec City. Even as they head off to their billets that first Wednesday in Quebec City they are still focused on the wins and losses.

However from the first glimpse of Le Colisee on Thursday morning and the sounds of the unforgettable Pee-wee theme song "Vive les pee-wee du carnaval!" The kids begin to understand that this is not just a hockey tournament. It is much more than that. In the stands on a Thursday morning there are 3 or 4 thousand people watching already. At what other tournament does that happen? This is something they have never seen before. As well there is a huge pin trading station set up and kids are already beginning to collect all they can. Slowly the kids disappear to trade pins or search Le Colisee for other souvenirs.

The billets as well make this trip so much more than just playing hockey. The kids are not just staying with strangers; they are staying with strangers who speak another language entirely. Truth is that in Quebec City the people are a whole distinct culture. I grew up in western Canada and my understanding of Quebec is that they have a different language and that was the extent of the differences of my western Canadian neighbors. After all they lived in the same country.

However, it took me coming to this pee-wee tournament five years ago to understand what a different culture it is. Quebec City is as foreign to the rest of Canada as Paris, France. The language is different for sure, but it is everything from the way of life, the humor, and the distinct physical features to their political beliefs. I always grew up not really wanting to be forced to learn the French language, as I did believe I was being forced, but now I understand that with the French Canadian language also come an incredible French cultural experience that these kids get to experience for 12 days, first hand. More than 400 families open their homes to kids from all over the world, from 47 teams and give them a little understanding of a French language and culture.

The kids start to play the exhibition games and look forward to the tournament games, but each night they are on the outdoor rink learning the ropes from the French Canadian kids and adults, who teach them that on the outdoor rink you either go get the puck or you never touch it. There are also those kids who have never seen snow. Hayden Winch from South Carolina grew up in Florida and his first sight of snow was from the airplane window as we flew high above the Quebec landscape. His mother asked him to get a picture of the snow and he could be seen doing snow angels and throwing snowballs all week long.

As the week goes on and the families have time to get to the carnival, they begin to see the great things that go along with that. Matthew Forslund, tagging along with the Charlotte trio of Mackenzie Lancaster, Bradley Ingersoll and Kyle Moore can be seen on the mini-luge track. Forslund took a spill and could not be found for a few minutes, but he turned up alright.

The Hockey Wear House comes on Sunday and the kids attack this huge hockey equipment store each and every year. I always think the sport is growing in North Carolina and one hockey store is the same as another, so each year I think the novelty will wear off, but I am always mistaken. The team always comes out of there with new sticks and equipment. Aiden Worrall took his parents for not one, but two graphite mini sticks (one for his older brother).



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As it gets closer to the tournament games the kids remember that they have a little hockey to play, but the exhibition games it is sometimes hard to get the kids super motivated before. After all, there is so much more to do than they first thought. How can you concentrate when there is a roller coaster over head, like they have to do at the Mall? Half dozen kids actually rode the roller coaster an hour before one of the exhibition games.

The tournament games are different. The Colisee now has 6 or 7 thousand in the building. The games get very interesting and there are folks around Quebec City or from Donnacona and Montreal, who have been coming to the Pee-wee tournament for decades. I met one man who said he has come to the Pee-wee tournament for 25 years. His wife goes away with friends at that time every year and he comes to the tournament to watch the games.

The kids head down to the locker rooms where the likes of Guy Lafleur, Ron Francis, Wayne Gretzky and Chad Larose have all dressed and begin the preparation. The locker room area is not like a small tournament arena. The passageway is full of tournament officials and a TV monitor with the brackets of winners and losers. The team bench and Jumbo Tron is just outside the dressing room doors. The coaches get together for a puck flip to determine the sides and music is blasting all around from the game being played before. Now the dreams of victory set in. The kids want to win. They are motivated. What would it be like to play on Saturday in front of 15,000? What would it be like to play Hershey on Saturday night or in the finals on Sunday afternoon?

A first round win against Anaheim. Easy enough they all think, a shutout, 2 to 0, some great last minute saves by Forslund and two nifty goals by Josh Wilkins and Eric Hirschhaut. Minutes after the game though all the thoughts turn to the extra-curricular activities, the Pin Trading is at full tilt right now, the Eric Stall pin is rare and a huge hit, the kids cannot wait to get upstairs to make some trades.

As well the win today means the Valcartier Snow Park tomorrow. They have been hearing about the Snow Park. What will they try first? Everest? The Himalaya's? The Tornado or maybe the Hurricane? Oh yeah when is our next game?

The next game comes and we face a local rival the Atlanta Fire. The kids have some experience against them and they revert into hockey mode. The mood is the same as the first tournament game. This is what they came here for right? The pee-wee song is blaring as we enter the ice and the kids are focused. Same jersey's, same bench, victory! A 5 to 2 win and some great play by the kids. Scoring again from Wilkins and Hirschhaut (2), this time they were joined by Garrett Coley and Captain Ward Betts in the goal column. Second year player Tyler Romel added two assists as well. There may be no better feeling than moving on to the third round. No one wants to lose in two.

Next game is the next day and now we tighten the reigns a bit. Now it is focus time. Pond hockey is hold for the night, the kids need to get to bed early and make sure they have a good meal. So the next day comes and the kids are now feeling the pressure. The coaches are feeling it to. The Colisee is buzzing and if we win this game then we get to Saturday morning. The game comes and before you know it the score is 3 to 0 for Quebec. This is quite a hole, but the kids fight back and make it a game. They pull within a goal late in the third, but cannot gain the edge.

A 6 to 3 loss and the tears start to come. This was a dream they had built up for many month and for some a few years. This was not just another tournament, this was the 51st year of the Quebec Pee-wee Tournament, they were a part of it and they wanted more. The kids are slow to get undressed and they linger in the dressing room. As everyone finishes and we head as a team to take our equipment to storage the last of the Pin tears have fallen. We head upstairs to the parents and cheers for a job well done.

Then the predictable happens, inevitably one of the players turns to me and asks how much time they will have in the stands before heading home with the billets. A few hours I tell them and then ask why? The player responds "I want to trade some pins". Soon they are all mingling in with the crowd and mass of humanity which is the "pin trader's row", the loss is not completely forgotten, but it is getting there.

We do have two exhibition games the next day against some very tough teams. The first is against the Colorado Thunderbirds. This is a AAA team who come with expectations of winning the top bracket. They lost out to eventual champion, Detroit Compuware, 1 to 0 the day before and they are not very happy. After our Colisee loss the day before the team comes out very tentative and gives up 5 first period goals and it did not look like Colorado would be backing off any time soon. Did I mention they were not very happy?

After a stern talking to about pride and embarrassment and the fact that we did not think Colorado would let up the team started to play like it could. We out-scored the Thunderbirds the rest of the way and wound up with a respectable 6 to 2 loss. Not bad considering we slept through the first period.

Our next games was against a British Columbia team, Semiahmoo, who also played in the top bracket and were a very good team. We played a little better, but the team proved to be very good and we lost 4 to 1. We added another game on Saturday against the Austrian team to finish the experience against a team most of these kids would remember forever. This game was played again at the Mall. Motivation was tough after this long week of fun and excitement. The kids did their best though and made the game exciting. The Austrians just had a little more juice and held on for a 2 to 1 victory.

The Tournament games went on and our kids went home to their billets for some outdoor pond action of their own or perhaps just one last night with the billets and learning a little bit more about the culture. At Le Colisee, Detroit Compuware took the AA title to add another feather in Hurricanes Owner Peter Karmanos Jr's hat. The BB bracket was won by Hershey again and Arby's Avalanche took home the C crown.

All in all the tournament was a huge success. 16 young men and two young women spent what was probably the longest time ever away from their parents and in the homes of strangers who, by the tournaments end would be shedding tears as they said goodbye because they bonded so quickly with their young players.

Players who barely knew each other a few months before are joking around and sharing phone numbers. They were even trading pins on the bus back to Montreal.

This is what the trip was all about. The games were important, but secondary to what the kids will remember as adults. The Pins, the Snow Park, the Mall, the pond hockey, the Poutine and the Billets, oh yeah and we played some hockey as well. Au Revoir Quebec City, Until Next season,



Comments / Commentaires

Parents Comments

We will be visiting the Quebec area for the first time next month for the Tournament and plan to explore the city by foot and by car over our 10-day stay. In addition to watching all the Carolina Junior Hurricanes games and taking in the Carnival celebration, we envision signing up early for a guided tour emphasizing the architecture of this historic city.

We are treating the time as a terrific vacation to explore museums, art galleries, music venues, etc. We are big fans of authentic regional cooking and look forward to visiting the wonderful cafes. If time permits, we might try a snowboarding class at the famous ski resorts.

Since several of the hockey venues are a short drive from the Old City, we plan to explore other areas of interest along the river. It certainly is very exciting to have our son play in this famous event and be afforded the opportunity to live and learn from a host family. We will look forward to spending time with Ginette and Gilles when they can join us.

As proud parents, we will truly enjoy watching the players live out one of many of their dreams to play in the tournament. We know that playing pond hockey will be a highlight of their time in Quebec and know that they will be building friendships for life throughout their stay. This will be a memorable occasion for the children and parents alike.

We can't wait to join all of you.

Merci,
Jackie and Bruce Hirschhaut

One of the highlights (out of the many) from our trip last year, was taking Josh and our other kids to snowboard at Le Relais. It was not far from the city, just enough of a mountain to spend an afternoon on, and everyone who worked there was VERY accommodating in fitting us with skis/snowboards!!!! Also, we LOVED the restaurant "Au Parmesan"! Our kids could have eaten there every night! Even with our "french" being pretty sad, the people of Quebec never made us feel "less than" and even went "above and beyond" to make us feel welcome. The Ice Hotel is a must too!! Bring some boot/glove warmer packets for this and the Carnival so you'll be able to "last" longer!!!

Looking forward to another great time!

Brent and Jill Wilkins

We are all counting down in our home till we can leave for Quebec City. It is so exciting to be going to a hockey tournament that is so much more than just hockey. We are planning on treating this as a family vacation so we plan on enjoying every minute, trying new food, taking in the sights and hopefully learning a little french too. We are looking forward to the snowpark that we have heard about from so many friends. It will be such a treat to enjoy the city we are in and not just travel to and from the rinks. I am a little worried that none of us are going to want to come home.

Thanks to everyone involved for all the planning that goes in to this tournament to make it happen. We haven't been this excited about a trip in a long time. 15 days and counting!!!

The Betts Family