



Team 2008 / Equipe 2008

***Make your dreams ...
come true.***

No	Name / Nom	Position	Coaches / Instructeurs
0	Bisi, Alex	G	Paul Strand – GM / Head Coach – Gérant – Instr. Chef Mitch Hodgkiss – Asst. Coach – Instr. Adjoint Brian Mehm – Asst. Coach – Instr. Adjoint
30	Halladay, Logan	G	
2	Wolno, Griffin	F/A	
5	Guimenez-Madill, Luis	F/A	
7	Tucker, Jackson	F/A	
8	Anderson, Colby	D	
9	Pelnik, Charlie	D	
10	Warfield, Devin	F/A	
11	Kennedy, Corey	F/A	
12	Wilkinson, Alex	F/A	
13	Universal. Grant	F/A	
17	Obukhovski, Eugene	F/A	
21	Wolkowicz, Ian	D	
25	Matthews, Taylor	D	
26	Jackson, Todd	F/A	
27	Pretty, Alex	F/A	
28	Maness, Will	F/A	
88	Lem, Jason	D	
* Second participation at the Tournament Deuxième participation au tournoi			



Team 2008/ Equipe 2008 Statistics / Statistiques*

No	Name Nom	GP PJ	G B	Asst Aide	Pts	P.I.M PÉN
11	Corey Kennedy	11	6	4	10	8
28	Will Manness	11	4	4	8	4
12	Alex Wilkinson	11	2	6	8	0
13	Grant Universal	11	4	3	7	8
7	Jackson Tucker	11	3	4	7	2
17	Eugene Obukovski	11	2	5	7	10
10	Devin Warfield	11	2	4	6	2
2	Griffin Wolno	11	1	5	6	0
5	Luis M. Guimenez	11	2	2	4	8
9	Charlie Pelnik	11	1	2	3	2
26	Todd Jackson	11	1	2	3	2
21	Ian Wolkovicz	11	1	1	2	4
25	Taylor Matthews	11	0	2	2	4
8	Colby Anderson	11	1	0	1	4
27	Alex Pretty	11	1	0	1	0
88	Jason Lem	11	0	1	1	8
Total			31	45	76	66

*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. 15	Exhibition	JR HURRICANES	3	Slovenia	1
Feb. 15	Exhibition	Colorado Avalanche	6	JR HURRICANES	4
Feb. 16	Exhibition	JR HURRICANES	1	Halifax Mooseheads	0
Feb. 17	Tour	JR HURRICANES	6	Austria	2
Feb. 18	Exhibition	Baden-Wuttemberg	1	JR HURRICANES	3
Feb. 18	Exhibition	JR HURRICANES	2	Suisse Romnde	2
Feb. 19	Tour	JR HURRICANES	4	Lachine	0
Feb. 20	Exhibition	JR HURRICANES	2	Acadie-Bathurst	2
Feb. 21	Tour	Hershey Bears	3 (OT)	JR HURRICANES	2
Feb. 22	Exhibition	North Shore (BC)	1	JR HURRICANES	1
Feb. 22	Exhibition	Suisse Team Select	2	JR HURRICANES	2

OT/S = Overtime – Surtemps



2008 Tryouts / Camp de sélection 2008

Tryout camp was held during the week end of October 12 to 14, 2007 at the Rec Zone in Raleigh, training site of the Hurricanes.

60 players showed up to this tryout camp to try to get a place on the JR Hurricanes team.

Tryout was held on Friday, Saturday and the players were divided in 4 groups. The first cut came on Saturday after the session of the second group.

On Sunday morning, a scrimmage game was held between the white and black team and after the game the evaluators (Paul Strand (GM and Coach), Brian Mehm (Asst Coach), Clay Cotie and Alain Desfossés) got reunited to select the players who will be part of the 2008 Edition of the JR Hurricanes.

There is the names of the 2008 JR Hurricanes Editions with the name of their home team.

F -Will Maness - Junior Canes AAA

F -Eugene Obukovski - Charlotte Junior Checkers

F -Devin Warfield - Junior Canes AAA

F -Luis Gimenez-Madill - Junior Canes AAA

D -Ian Wolkowicz - Charleston Wolverines

D -Colby Anderson - Junior Canes AA

F -Alex Wilkinson - Junior Canes AAA

F -Jackson Tucker - Charlotte Junior Checkers

F -Griffin Wolno - Charlotte Junior Checkers

F -Todd Alan Jackson - Junior Canes AAA

D -Jason Lem - Junior Canes AAA

G -Alex Bisi - East Coast Eagles

F -Grant Universal - Junior Canes AAA

F -Corey Kennedy - Junior Canes AAA

F -Alex Pretty - Junior Canes AAA

D -Charlie Pelnik - Junior Canes AAA

D -Taylor Mathews - East Coast Eagles

G -Logan Halladay - Junior Canes AAA

Second participation to the Tournament.

Special thanks to all the volunteers for your help during the week end. It was really appreciated.



2008 Daily Reports / Journal de bord 2008

Daily Blog of Junior Hurricanes Coach Paul Strand



For the seventh consecutive year the Junior Hurricanes are competing at the International Pee Wee Hockey Tournament in Quebec City, Canada. This season marks the 49th anniversary of this prestigious event in which the likes of Wayne Gretzky and Ron Francis have competed. The Hockey Tournament consists of 115 teams in three divisions all experiencing the opportunity of a lifetime! Representing the Junior Hurricanes will be 18 players, three coaches, Le Capitaine, and a supporting cast of family and friends. From February 14th to February 28th, head Paul Strand and his fellow coaches will keep a running blog to keep us up-to-date on how the Junior Hurricanes are doing in the 49th Annual International Pee Wee Hockey Tournament.

Feb. 14, 2008 : Wow! What a start to a trip. Planes, trains and automobiles...well almost. Obstacles arise, the team pulls together with a positive attitude and success prevails!

We started off the trip with the norm. Arrive at the airport early in the morning, parents drop off the boys, get checked in and board the plane for our first leg of the trip. Of course weather is always a concern, but no need to panic we have plenty of time. With 45 minutes to go before boarding our flight to Quebec, all is well and we are on time. All would change within minutes. Both players and coaches realize the board is cleared and the flight now reads CANCELLED!

Eighteen boys, three coaches, three parents, one sibling, 47 pieces of luggage and the largest Pee-Wee hockey tournament in the world awaiting our arrival with no transportation until Saturday! Needless to say, the boys were as restless as the coaches were nervous. With the support of the Hurricanes, the coaches and the cooperation of the boys, we rallied, organized plan B and put it into action. Charter a bus, spend 10 hours of quality bonding time together, sleep, watch what might be the worst movie Tom Cruise has ever made (War of the Worlds), and arrive at the Palace Royale Hotel at 1:30 AM.

With Le Capitaine waiting with the hotel staff and some parents already at the hotel, we collectively unloaded the luggage, assigned rooms and headed to bed within 30 minutes of arrival. The team approach wins again! (I am beginning to sense a pattern! Team working together = Success!) Four hours of sleep and we are ready to go.

We head to the Pepsi Colisee to check in and spend a couple of hours watching several teams play before our first practice. What stands out the most to me while watching the first couple of games is the enthusiasm of the players on the ice. With each goal scored, they are as excited as they have ever been in their lives and it shows. They know of the players that have come before them and the revel in the joy of victory.

Our boys carried this enthusiasm into the first practice. High intensity, the excitement to practice in a new environment and the anticipation to play, compete and win! Everything comes to a head as we gather as a group to meet the billets and send the boys off to what might be the best cultural experience of their young lives. I believe everyone throughout their lives, craves inspiration. Watching the joy and excitement as the billets are introduced (some of which have been volunteering to house young players for many years) to their players is amazing. I AM OFFICIALLY INSPIRED!

This is the essence of international hospitality and competition. As the boys go off with their adopted families, the coaches and parents head off for a nice meal and a long night's sleep in anticipation of what lies ahead. Competition, culture, four+ feet of snow, teamwork, camaraderie, poutine (I had my first taste today and if you have never had French fries, cheese curd, gravy, and vinegar you have no idea what fried food is all about) and the thrill of victory! I am more tired than I have been in my life, but feel like a kid the night before Christmas in anticipation of the days to come.

It may be one year later, but in regards to the Jr. Hurricanes getting to Quebec City and the International Pee-Wee Tournament it is always an adventure. As Mitch described in detail below, it is never easy getting to Quebec city! However, this year's journey topped them all. With this being an all-star team made up of kids from all over North and South Carolina and team gatherings being few, the main worry before the tournament is team bonding. Well, hopefully a 21-hour day that culminated with a nine hour bus ride from the Newark, New Jersey airport took care of most of those concerns.

On Friday, the boys will test this theory with two games, back-to-back, in the morning at the Galleries Mall. The team will play Slovenia at 9:00 in their first test of the weekend and then after an hour rest and chalk talk they will hit the ice again against the Colorado Avalanche junior team.

This tournament marks the first year without Coach Sam Licata. Sam, along with his wife Barb, were with the team from the start and have been tremendous assets to the Jr. Hurricanes hockey team and both were great ambassadors to Quebec City for the Carolina Hurricanes. Sam is over in Beijing this year and is planning a return to the Pee-Wee Tournament at the helm of the first Chinese team to attend. Thanks and Good Luck to both of you!

Feb. 15, 2008 : Up at the crack of dawn and feeling great after getting a good night sleep. With 6 hours of sleep in the previous 48, a good night sleep was a must. It was downstairs with Coach Hodgkiss to meet with Coach Mehm, down to the Tabagie Du Carre for a chocolate croissant, Cup of coffee and ready to go. We were off to the Colisee Pepsi to meet the kids and head to the Mall for our first exhibition games.

Yesterday we managed a practice with the boys and put into some place some very simple systems. The main thing for a team put together like this is to make sure we are on the same page with Defensive zone, Power play, Penalty kill, fore check and back check. We also needed to get some bus legs out. It seems the boys already got them out the night before as many went to the billets and played their first outdoor hockey games.

It was a great practice and sure to get us ready for today's tough back to back games. A side note Charlie Pelnik won the shootout at the end.

Game 1 Vs Slove 9:00 AM at the Mall Feb 15



AAA Carolina Jr Hurricanes



The Slovene team was better than expected. They played their systems well and skated hard. The first couple minutes the boys were on their heels, but they were looking strong and coming together. Jackson Tucker from the Charlotte Checkers picked up a Slovene turnover and he dished it to Luis Madill-Gimenez who sprung Eugene Obukovski, another Charlotte product, into the clear. Obukovski with his tremendous wheels broke free and potted the first goal of the tournament past the Slovene goaltender

Jr. Canes 1 Slovene 0

Next it was Gimenez, whose Father flew in from Spain for the tournament, with his second point of the game. A great play by Alex Wilkinson to keep the puck in at the blue line and chip it to Obukovski. Obukovski then slid the puck to a wide-open Gimenez who beat the tender to make it 2 to 0 Canes

Jr. Canes 2 Slovene 0

The Canes were flying on all cylinders as the second period was winding down and they were not resting on the slim lead. Alex Bisi was coming up big in the net, as he had to make a couple huge saves to protect the lead. The boys were battling here and were scrambling for a puck at our defensive Blue line. Second year player and Co-Captain Will Maness broke the puck free along with "Turbo" Todd Jackson broke the log jam and Alex Pretty found himself racing for the puck all alone with a chaser. Pretty on the breakaway never had a doubt and he beat the tender easily.

Jr. Canes 3 Slovene 0

In the third period the boys were doing everything right. They were playing textbook hockey. Every play was up the wall and in the zone with a hard fore-checks. The boys looked good. Corey Kennedy and Devin Warfield battled for the puck to the left of the Slovene net and drilled a pass the Ian Wolkowicz on the point. Wolkowicz, with one his 6 foot frame and a cannonading shot fired one to the short side on the ice to make the score 4 to 0. The Jr. Canes finished the game strong and played the rest of the game for the shutout. Alex Bisi finished hard and the Jr. Canes won the first exhibition game.

Jr. Canes 4 Slovene 0

Next up was the Colorado Avalanche only 1 hour later. The players kept their skates on and hung around watching Laval play Germany. They rested in the room and ate some power bars that Coach Mehm found in the mall. After a little chalk talk about the previous game the boys suited back up and headed out for their second game of the morning.

There was some worry that the boys might be tired. Two games in three hours can be tough, especially since we know that the boys could not stay away from the late night pond hockey the night before.

Again the boys came out strong and took it to the Avalanche. They hemmed them in and kept the play around the Avalanche goaltender. At 7:32 of the first period the Jr. Canes struck first as Charlie Pelnik found the back of the net off a nice feed from Corey Kennedy.

Jr. Canes 1 Avalanche 0

The Avalanche came back with a late goal off a broken play late in the first period to make the score 1 to 1

Jr. Canes 1 Avalanche 1

The Canes still kept the pressure on in the second and did not look like they had any ill affect from the late night and game early that day. Alex Wilkinson, the prodigy, sent Co-Captain Alex Wilkinson in the clear for a breakaway. Universal was hooked and held from behind, but managed to get the shot off which the goalie saved. Falling down Universal swatted at the rebound and put it in for a 2 to 1 lead.

Jr. Canes 2 Avalanche 1

Not to be out done the Avalanche battled on and 5 minutes later tied the score with a shot off the right wing that goalie Logan Halladay lost sight of as it sailed over his shoulder into the top corner. The Jr. Canes however kept the pressure on and with the Jr. Canes shorthanded late in the second Period Jackson Tucker and Todd Jackson turned the puck over with some tremendous fore-checking in the neutral zone. Tucker dished to Jackson and sent him in alone. Todd Jackson went with the triple deke and finally went backhand shelf with one of the nicest goals to this point.

Early in the second period the Jr. Canes continued their dominance of the morning and Eugene Obukovski took a Griffin Wolno pass and went down the right side. After an in between the legs move like Sydney Crosby Obukovski found himself behind the net and wrapped the puck around and between the goalies legs from the left side.

Jr. Canes 4 Avalanche 2

This is where the good times stop for the Jr. Canes. The wheels fell off the bus. After dominating the last 5 and half periods the boys found themselves with little energy and in 2 and half minutes gave up 3 goals to see their 2 goals lead evaporate to a one goal deficit. The Avalanche then added another insurance goal a minute later to make it 6 to 4 Avalanche.

Jr. Canes 4 Avalanche 6

All in all the Hurricanes had a very good start. Except for a 4 minute time span in the third period of the second game the Jr. Canes dominated the first two games of their Pee-wee Tournoi experience of 2008. The boys looked good, played well as a team and hustled hard all day long.

The highlights included a shutout by Alex Bisi, some tremendous overall play by Alex Wilkinson who played both Defense and forward showing flashes of brilliance. We also saw some hustle and work ethic by most of the players, Jackson Tucker, Eugene Obukovski and "Turbo: Todd Jackson setting themselves apart. As well as some solid defensive play by Taylor Matthews, Jason Lem and Colby Anderson.

Next up Halifax Mooseheads!

Feb. 16, 2008 : It is Carnaval day here in Quebec City. Today will mark the last day of the 2008 Carnaval and it also is marking the 400 anniversary of Old Quebec.



AAA Carolina JR Hurricanes



The best way to explain it is that is a family version of Mardi Gras in the snow, the Cold, Cold snow.

First lets get to the game this morning against the Halifax Mooseheads. The Halifax team would be looking for a little payback as last years Jr. Canes took it to them winning a late tournament exhibition game by 4 or so goals. This years Halifax team, represented by the Halifax Hawks, was a lot better team all around. They could skate, shoot and play position well. This was very evident right off the get go. It looked like this would be the teams toughest game so far and just what we needed after giving up the 2 goal lead against the Avalanche the day before.

The game started off tight. Halifax kept the pressure on and kept us on our heels, but the steady play of chipping the puck out of our zone and chipping it in their zone turned the momentum our way. After a few quick chances against, where Alex Bisi playing stellar kept the Jr. Canes even at 0 to 0, the Jr. Canes started generating some scoring opportunities.

A nifty moved by Corey Kennedy at the Halifax blue line, showing the brilliance that he has with the puck, turned the Halifax Defensemen inside out and Kennedy almost put the puck in the short side. The team was starting to buzz all around the Halifax net with nice plays by Grant Universal and Jackson Tucker. Yet the first period ended in a scoreless tie.

Jr. Canes 0 Halifax 0

The second period again started of strong for the Jr. Canes and we were all over the Halifax tender. Eugene Obukovski battled for the puck hard in the Halifax zone and dished the puck back to Charlie Pelnik at the point. Pelnik wound up with a nice hard and accurate wrist shoot towards the Halifax Goal. Griffin Wolno and Alex Wilkinson stood their ground in front of the Halifax tender and took swipes at the mid-air puck. Wilkinson found the touch and re-directed the puck past the Halifax goalie for a 1 to 0 lead. The second period remained a tight one and the Hurricanes gave up few chances and buzzed the net. They had a 5 on 3 power play late in the period, but could not convert. The second period ended with the Jr. Canes holding tight to a 1 goal lead.

Jr. Canes 1 Halifax 0

After a stern talking to in between periods about the let down against Colorado the day before the kids came out ready for the third. Again the play of Jackson Tucker, Alex Wilkinson, Todd Jackson and Eugene Obukovski lead the way in terms of hustle and hard work, but this was truly another team effort.

From the defensemen stand up play and keeping the odd man rushing to a minimum, to the teamwork lead by the forwards to fore-check with one man high and back-check with a purpose they left little for goaltender Alex Bisi to worry about.

The Jr. Canes completed another shutout victory of the Tournament and the second straight scoreless game by Alex Bisi.

Jr. Canes 1 Halifax 0

Now after taking care of Business the boys have a day to relax, play some pond hockey and get ready for the Tournament Game tomorrow VS Austria, 8 am at Le Colisee.

I am heading out with Coach Hodgkiss and the family to see a little of the Carnival and watch the Parade. This is the best of the festive atmosphere to see here in Quebec City. Full detail to come. Bon Chance! And Bon Soiree!

Feb. 17, 2008 : The Jr. Canes Quebec team is picked from kids throughout North and South Carolina. These are 18 young men that were picked from 65 at a tryout in September 2007. Many of these kids play against each other throughout the year, but never learn much about each other until they come on a trip like this.

Each day I am going to describe a few players to give you an idea about them on and off the ice.

The Charlotte Boys

Jackson Tucker : Other than the tryouts I never really saw Jackson play until we got to Quebec. I can tell you this he is a dream player. He can skate. He can shoot. He can play position and he works his tail off. Jackson is leading the CHL in goals this year at the pee-wee level with 48 goals 27 assists for 75 points in 20 games. That folks is incredible!

Off the ice he is one of the nicest kids you can ever meet. He is pure southern, born and raised. He is polite with his "yes' sirs" and is probably his toughest critic. He has been a pleasure this and a great surprise this year.

Eugene Obukovski : The Russian. Eugene not only looks and sounds Russian, but he plays like a few well-known Russians as well. He is probably the smoothest skater on the team and oh man, that speed! He can fly. He looks a lot like Pavel Bure and Sergei Fedorov and is second in the CHL to Tucker with 23 goals and 23 assists for 46 points in 20 games.

OB's parents are from Russia, but they live in Charlotte now. OB knows the stats and plays of every player around. On the bench today OB remembered a play by Sergei Samsanov a few weeks back that resulted in an Andrew Ladd rebound goal. He could remember the time and date as we were using it for an example. He loves this game.

Griffin Wolno : Griffin is all heart. He was noticed at tryouts by his relentless work ethic and his desire to talk on the ice. Communication shows you want the puck and Griffin always wants the puck. With 15 goals, 23 assists and 38 points for Charlotte in the CHL, Griffin shows what heart and work ethic can do.

Griffin is always asking questions and never questions the coach when we are giving him some tips. One of the few Canadian born players, Griffin and the rest of the Charlotte Kids are coached by his dad Bruce also raised in Ontario, Canada.



The Charlotte kids have brought a lot of skill, heart and determination to the Jr. Canes this year. They are all a little different, but all have added to the winning ways.

Tournament Day! The day we have all been waiting 6 months for. Ever since the puck dropped for tryouts in September the Jr. Canes Pee-wee Quebec team has been waiting for this day. The time was 8 am and the boys stepped on the ice to face Austria for their first round match.

Coach Hodgkiss warmed them in the hallway as the Austria team ran around with what looked like a personal trainer. They were coming ready to play. Our boys were just dropped off by the Billet families and were somewhat dazed and confused as they arrived at the Pepsi Colisee at 6:45 am. Hodgkiss warmed them up good.

The players dressed for the game and as is the tradition at the Tournament they headed out to get a team photo prior to their first tournament game. We had two new mascots with us for good luck. Junior 02, a stuffed pig, paying homage to our very own Stormy and Braden Mayo, celebrating his 9th birthday would be our on-ice mascot to warm up with the team and sit on the bench for the game.

The puck dropped and the Austrians came out flying. A shot from the blue line was hammered over the head of starter Alex Bisi and we knew we were in a game. One thing that was very apparent, Corey Kennedy came to play.

From the very first shift he was buzzing, making some of the niftiest moves of the week so far. He had the Austrian defense on their heels. At 6:29 of the first period he took a pass from assistant captain Will Maness and potted the first goal of the 2008 tournament to put the Jr. Canes up 1 to 0. The period was for the most part back and forth, but the Hurricanes out shot Austria 7 to 4 and finished the period 1 to 0.

Jr. Canes 1 Austria 0

The second period started off with the Austrians gaining a little momentum as at 4:36 their top player Philipp Kreuzer took a rebound off Bisi and buried the shot to tie the game. However their was no stop in the Jr. Canes and they kept coming. Todd Jackson, Alex Wilkinson and Devin Warfield kept the puck down low in the Austrian end with tremendous pressure and Griffin Wolno and Grant Universal picked up where they left off and 1 minute later the Jr. Canes took the lead again as Wolno fed Universal in the slot. Universal shot and stabbed at his rebound to make it 2 to 2 at 5:58. The Jr. Canes kept the pressure on and with 15 seconds in the period Grant Universal again dished the puck to Alex Wilkinson on the left side and a beautiful pass to a wide open and streaking Maness in front of the net and Maness left no doubt as he fired past the Austrian Goaltender Martin Autengruber.

Jr. Canes 3 Austrian 2

The boys looked tired near the end of the second and the coaching staff went to the dressing room for the ice resurface with a message to leave nothing on the table. We wanted to play in Le Colisee on Tuesday Vs Lachine in the second round and they would need to keep the pressure on in the third period.

Corey Kennedy kept his tremendous game going as he missed chance after chance and controlled the play every time on the ice. Double shifting, Kennedy, picked up the puck near the net and scored an unassisted goal chipping it past the tender to give the Canes a cushion.

Next came Maness with his second of the game on another nice shot down the left side less than 30 seconds later. Not to be outdone by co-captain Maness, Universal scored a replay of his first goal diving at his rebound, after a gorgeous pass from Wilkinson from behind the net.

In the end Maness finished with 2 goals and 2 assists, Universal had a 2 goals and an assist. Assistant Captain Wilkinson added 2 assists as well. It was a great game all around. Other than the offense, which came to play today, the defense held the Austrians to 14 shots total as Matthews, Lem, Pelnik, Wolkowicz and Anderson stood their ground well. Bisi stopped all the first shots and let his first two goals of the week in on rebounds, one by his own teammate.

Jr. Canes 6 Austria 2

Next Up Lachine! They are a Quebec team from Montreal so the crowd may be against us, but the boys will be ready to play.

Feb. 19, 2008 : The weather started warming up yesterday. The snow, which is 8 feet high in some places, started to melt. Some of us believe that if there were a couple days of serious heat that Quebec City would be lost under water. You can hear the water rushing in the sewer and it sounds like the Mississippi.

It was a good day for the warm weather to come when it did, because the day before after our first tournament win the team got out with the billets, coaches and couple parents for good old fashioned pond hockey game.

Those who didn't skate watched and we had a good crowd. The rink was overrun with Hurricanes jackets and there must have been 35 people on the ice. We split the teams up between the Carolina personal on one side and the Billets, Parents and locals on the other side.

It started out 6 on 6, but with 18-19 players on each team that did not stick for long. Soon it became 10 on 10 and then it was everyone on everyone. The game included some nice moves, some cherry picking, and a couple injuries. Charlie Pelnik left for a few minutes with a bloody nose and Billet Martin was cut over the eye by a puck. Old Time Hockey!

The local players showed no love towards the Carolina Jr. Hurricane players and coaches for invading their territory and combined with the parents and Billets to destroy the younger squad by at least 20, but who was keeping score. I must say that Brian "ugh" Anderson was on the receiving end of a solid body check by yours truly. Hey, what can I say, we were losing and I don't like to lose.

Monday started out strong for the boys. The win the day before and the pond hockey game kept the team excited. We had two games on tap, both against teams in our division and possible future tournament opponents, so we wanted to play them tough.



AAA Carolina Jr Hurricanes



First up was Baden-Württemberg, from Germany. The Germans were skilled and fast, but our boys came to play.

With first year tender Logan Hallady back in net the Hurricanes came out flying. Corey Kennedy also came to play and led the Jr. Canes to quick lead with a nice shot on the ice from the left side of the net that slid under the German goalie for the 1 to 0 lead. A couple minutes later prolific goal scorer, equipped with his new stick from the Hockey Warehouse and taped with Fleur de lis Hockey tape, tipped in his first goal of the week redirecting an Ian Wolkowicz blast from the point. Obukovski also added an assist. Jackson was having an awesome tournament creating many goals for the teams so it was nice to see him break the bubble.

Jr. Canes 2 Germany 0

If the Jr. Canes thought it was going to be "point night" with the quick two goals lead they were mistaken as Germany settled down and kept the game tight. mid way through the second the Hurricanes found the net again as Corey Kennedy banged in his second of the game on a nice feed from Todd Jackson and Charlie Pelnik. It was Kennedy's second straight two goals game and 4th straight game with a point.

Jr. Canes 3 Germany 0

Halladay stood strong in the net and shut down the German team with some solid saves. His only blemish was a Penalty shot, as the Germans were awarded one near the end of the second.

The third period was uneventful as the Jr. Canes kept the pressure on and the puck out of our zone.

Hurricanes win 3 to 0

Next up was Suisse Romande. While the coaching staff took a quick trip to Le Colisee to scout some possible future opponents, the boys relaxed at the arena and grabbed a bite to eat. They would play Suisse Romande out of Switzerland at 12:45 pm.

The Suisse team came out strong and really put the pressure on the player. This was by far the hardest fore checking team we had faced so far. It looked like the boys were dragging their feet, but it was Suisse Romande's first game of the day and maybe the Pond Hockey the day before was catching up. The first period ended in a scoreless tie.

Jr. Canes 0 Suisse 0

The Suisse struck first 43 seconds into the second period as Palmyr Ligue took a Felix Girard pass and put it past Hallady to give the Hurricanes a rare deficit in this tournament exhibition series.

The Jr. Canes responded well though as Jackson Tucker, complete with new stick and tape job, scored his second goal of the day 2 minutes later to tie the score up. Eugene Obukovski assisted.

Jr. Canes 1 Suisse 1

There was a goaltender change to start the third as Alex Bisi and Halladay were splitting the game. The play was end to end. You could tell the Suisse had more energy and after losing their first round game were determined to have a solid game and go for the win. Our boys kept right with them and the action was exciting. It was reminiscent of last year's end-to-end action against Syracuse in the same building that ended in a 2-2 tie.

The Suisse struck first as the Suisse took a weird bounce off the end boards and back in front of Bisi and buried it. The puck hit behind the net and bounced back in the crease under Bisi's stick and in the mad scramble it ended up behind Bisi to give the Suisse the lead.

Again though the Jr. Canes responded well and it looks again like the trip to the hockey warehouse was a good idea as Jackson Tucker scored his second of the game, third of the day, less than a minute later. The goal was the Charlotte Checker show as Griffin Wolno and Obukovski assisted.

Jr. Canes 2 Suisse Romande 2

All in all it was a good day. The Jr. Canes are now 4 wins 1 loss and 1 tie and heading into Tuesday's Tournament game VS Lachine looking for a win. It will be tough, but so far we have see this group of kids battle hard.

The Defensemen

Charlie Pelnik : Charlie is one of our 6-foot defensemen. He has some big reach and can dangle with the puck. Playing for the AAA Jr. Hurricanes Charlie has learned well under coach Steve Sabo. He stays at home when it is needed and picks his spots to rush the puck. When he does rush the puck, look out. He was the winner of the shoot out competition after our first practice and showed those offensive moves. He also prefers the wrist shot from the point. Unlike most defensemen who love to get the big aircraft carrier slap shot off, Charlie takes a nice smooth wrist shot almost every time and sails it at the net. Not overpowering, but safe and usually ends in a good scoring play.

Ian Wolkowicz : Ian is our only South Carolina player in 2008. Driving from the far outpost of the Hilton Head area, the hockey hotbed it is, to Charleston to play in the local Youth program their, Ian is our other giant defensemen. Much like Pelnik in his demeanor (sometimes you have to check for a pulse), Ian is opposite in his choice of shots. Ian scored one of the nicest goals of the tournament in the first game against Slovenia as he laid down a beautiful slap from the point reminiscent of 2008 HOF Al MacInnis. Ian is a steady defensemen and has made South Carolina proud so far.

Jason Lem : Another Junior Hurricanes AAA player, Lem, new to Carolina via San Jose, has west coast written all over him. Ask him a question and his number one



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answer is “what?” He is all over the place and sometimes you cannot understand what he is up to, but on the ice he is all business. If this were a checking tournament, Lem would surely lead the tournament in bone crushing checks. He loves to hit. Lem has been a stalwart so far and is only getting better. Lem plays in every situation and usually dominates.

Taylor Matthews : Taylor is one of two East Coast Eagle players on the team and has been a pleasant surprise. Matthews is tall, lean and a smooth skater. After a rough first shift or two, Matthews got the butterflies out of the stomach and has settled into being a very steady player for this year’s team. He is a coach’s dream as his steady play makes him sometimes unnoticed on the ice, but ask any coach and they will can tell when a defenseman is playing his best that is when you don’t notice him. However, the play is not without recognition. He has become one of the steadiest players of the tournament to date and we look for more out of him on our quest. He trying hard to find a way to use pink tape on his stick, but we are hoping he waits until he gets back home to do that.

Colby Anderson : Smart is the best way to describe Colby, on the ice and off the ice. On the ice Colby always makes the smart play, the right play. If a coach tells him to do something then Colby goes right out and the next shift he does it. The most often uttered phrase this year by defense coach Hodgkiss is “boy, is he smart.” After yet another play where Colby does the easy play that keeps the team out of trouble. Colby currently plays for the Jr Hurricanes AA team. Smart off the ice you ask? Well Colby is the 2008 Jr. Hurricanes pin trader of the year. The Hurricanes pride themselves on having a great pin every year and Colby has worked that to is advantage, by trading for quite a collection. In the world of pin trading Colby is King. Well this is the Defensemen for 2008, a very steady group of kids. They have kept the opposing teams to very few shots and made the game easy in the Defensive Zone.

Feb. 20, 2008 : It was tournament day again. This was where the Jr. Canes lost last year to Anaheim Ducks. We were entering the game as favorites against Lachine, a suburb of Montreal, and it goes to show how much things have changed for hockey in the Carolinas’. It was only a couple years back where the kids from Carolina were hoping to score a goal or get a win. After going to the finals 3 years ago led by Tim Acker, Troy slider, Sean Murphy, Ross Whitehead, etc, things have changed for the Jr. Canes. Expectations are up.

So the boys came back to the hotel as we did not play until 2:15 and after a brief walk and a team meal in the downstairs lobby they were instructed to rest and get ready for a 12:45 departure to Le Colisee to face Lachine. There would be no pin trading before the game today. Lachine was not a strong team, but again this goes to show how far we have come. A team from Montreal in the BB bracket is considered weak compared to the Hurricanes. However, the Jr. Canes came out like they did last year against Anaheim, they were in a fog. A team they should be dominating they were letting stay with them as the for-checking and puck pursuit was not there.

The first period finished a 0 to 0 tie and the shots were 4 for and 2 against. The coaches were not happy and let the boys know it at intermission. “This is exactly what happened last year” we told them. “We let a team not as good stay in the game to long and they beat us in the end” we told them.

Jr. Canes 0 Lachine 0

The team responded well as Todd Jackson and Devin Warfield chased down a Lachine defender with the puck on the hash marks and Corey Kennedy picked the puck up on the half wall and, like he has done three or four times this year, walked through the crease with a fake or two and slid the puck past the Lachine tender.

A few minutes later it was Alex Pretty with a Mario Lemieux type goal. While Lemieux played in Laval in junior there is footage of him controlling the puck back and forth in the corners and walking out and burying the shot. In this case it was two Hurricanes doing that. First Alex Wilkinson had the puck and went back and forth keeping the puck from the Lachine defenders, as he got tired he slid the puck to Pretty in the corner and headed for a change. Pretty did the same as Wilkinson and went left and the right and left again. He ducked under the goal line and dropped his shoulder slid out in front of the net untouched and drained the shot past the goalie to the far side. This was a better period.

Jr. Canes 2 Lachine 0

In the dressing room the coaches reminded the players of past years. Of teams that did not close the deal or get that killer instinct. They challenged the players to go harder.

Again, like they have almost every time this year, the kids responded well. Devin Warfield was first as he took a beautiful pass from Corey Kennedy all alone in the slot and blasted a slap shot top shelf for what was one of the nicest goals of the tournament. A few minutes later co-captain Will Maness, fresh off having his stick shortened a few inches by the coaching staff during the intermission, picked up the puck on the right side of the net and cut to the middle and fired a shot again to the top corner past the Lachine glove.

The Jr. Canes played awesome for the last two periods and after outshooting the Lachine team 4-2 in the first period they dominated the rest of the game with a final shot total of 32-7.

Alex Bisi again played solid with a Jr. Canes record third shutout of the week and second consecutive of the tournament.

Jr. Canes 4 Lachine 2

After a game today against Acadia-Bathhurst of New Brunswick, Canada, the kids will hit the Snow park and then the Remparts Game tonight. Next up for the Tournament will be Hershey Bears on Thursday 3:30 pm at Le Colisee.

Feb. 21, 2008 : The Goaltenders

Alex Bisi : “Beast’ has been awesome so far this year in Quebec City. He has a Jr. Canes record three shutouts so far during this year’s tournament, including two in tournament play. Alex is one of two players on the 2008 Jr. Canes from the East Coast Eagles pee-wee team. Alex is calm and cool in net and perhaps the nickname “beast” is misleading. He has been a “beast” so far between the pipes, but most of the time he barely utters a word in or out of the dressing room.



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Alex has been a rock for this year's addition and has received three game pucks out of the five that have been awarded.

Logan Hallady : Logan is the only first-year pee-wee on the team in 2008. He is the youngest player on the team and the brother of former Jr. Cane Kyle Halladay from 2007. Logan has played steady this year and registered his first win against Germany, 3-1, and the only goal he gave up was on a penalty shot. He also has recorded ties against Suisse Romande and Acadie-Bathurst. All in all he has registered two goals or less in three of his four starts.

Another of our pin trading champions, Logan has been formidable at "pin alley" and looks to have a tremendous head start on the 2009 pin traders. Logan is looking to take over for Alex Bisi as the rock of next year's team.

The Talents

Todd Jackson - The Workhorse : "Turbo" has been non-stop all game, every game. The smallest player on the team, he has earned lots of nicknames to do with his size, but Turbo tells the story of his heart and work ethic. A very skilled player, Todd is always the first player on the puck and wreaks havoc with his fore checking in the offensive and neutral zone. "Turbo" is similar to Chad LaRose in almost every aspect. He is a crowd pleaser on the ice and in the dressing room. He has been a very valuable player to this year's team.

Devin Warfield : Devin is Todd Jackson's line mate, both on the Jr. Hurricanes AAA team and throughout most of the 2008 tournament. Devin is the perfect compliment to Turbo. He has the smoothest stride of any player on the 2008 team. He is much like Matt Cullen. He is superbly skilled and is always there to pick up the puck when Turbo knocks it loose and put it in the net. Devin's top shelf slap shot was one of the nicest of the tournament so far. Devin is also the favorite of my son Braden who followed him around like a puppy dog the entire time he was up here.

Alex Pretty : Alex is another Jr. Hurricanes AAA player and shows those flashes of brilliance of the really talented players. His Tournament goal vs. Lachine was reminiscent of Mario Lemieux during his junior career. Alex plays in all situations and combines with Luis Gimenez as a very good penalty-killing unit.

Alex comes from hockey blood as his father Dave Pretty actually played here in Quebec City for the Remparts in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey league, the team the boys will be heading out to watch this Wednesday night. Much of that skill and talent has rubbed off on young Alex.

Luis Madill-Gimenez - The Spaniard : Luis started his playing career in Spain and comes to the Carolinas via the grand state of Texas. Much like Warfield, Luis has the sweetest, smoothest stride similar to Hurricanes player Eric Staal. Luis started the team off strong against Slovenia with a goal and assist and has been a steady player every game.

Another Jr. Hurricanes AAA player, Luis comes from a hockey family. Luis' dad played professional hockey in Spain as Luis was growing up and has passed those genes to his son.

Corey Kennedy - The Power Forward : Probably the most intimidating player on the team, Corey is also one of the smallest. He will either put the puck in the back of the net or knock you down in the process. If he does not get around you, then look out. Corey has been the leading scorer in the tournament for the Jr. Canes so far and has registered a point or two in the majority of games. He has also led the team in penalties.

Corey is the undisputed team leader both in the dressing room and off the ice. He is well-respected for both his offensive prowess and his ability to intimidate. Needless to say he has become a favorite of at least one coach on the staff who believes scoring and tough play are main components of western Canadian hockey.

Feb. 23, 2008 : The Captains

The Captains are three, second year players on the Jr. Hurricanes. A select few are lucky or skilled enough to be selected as first year peewees and are able to attend this tournament two times as a player for the junior Hurricanes. All three are different and all three bring something different to the team.

Will Maness : Will has a mild mannered demeanor, but is a hulking power forward in the true sense. Will has the ability to pick the puck up in defensive own zone and skate it end to end down the left side and cut to the net and bury the puck behind opposing goaltenders. He did just that a few times this week. Will has all the skills, a smooth stride, a great shot and some solid hands.

Will loves the game and was a tremendous two-year Jr. Hurricane. Moving to Bantam next year, he will make an immediate impact.

Grant Universal : Not only was Grant a two-year Jr. Cane he also followed in the footsteps of his brother Thayer who played for the Jr. Canes just before Grants arrival.

Grant is a hard worker who made us proud last year as a first year Jr. Cane. Seeing very little ice time against a tough Syracuse squad, Grant made a hardworking play to record an assist on the game-tying goal. Then in the final Tournament game last year, Grant again seeing limited ice in the loss with two shifts, he received the game puck for his great attitude and trying to keep the rest of the team focused.

Alex Wilkinson : Alex is a tremendously talented hockey player. He can control the game just by being on the ice and can do things with the puck that few will ever be able to attain. Alex can play forward equally as effective as defense and the jury is still out on where he is most valuable. Alex was used in every situation for the Jr. Canes right from his first shift in last year's tournament.

Alex loves to be around the game and along with his dad he can be seen at Le Colisee in between games watching Moscow or his friends that play on teams from all around the country.



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Feb. 27, 2008 : Vive le Pee-wee du Carnaval!

What a trip. Each and every year the pee-wee tournament of Quebec City provides the kids of North Carolina with, some great hockey, wonderful new friends and of course the journey of a lifetime. Getting to and from Quebec City is an experience all by itself, but the wonderful memories that come from the 12 days within the Old City and the Pee-wee tournament makes this tournament unlike any other in the world.

It began on February 13 as all the players met at RDU airport for the flight to Quebec City. Equipment getting to Quebec City is always an issue because the airplanes going into Quebec City are always small planes and the equipment the boys pack for the 12 days sometimes cannot fit underneath.

After two years of not having the sticks show up we decided to Fed-ex them early this year just in case. I got confirmation that the sticks would arrive before we left RDU in the hours to come the question would be whether we would arrive.

As we landed into Newark the visibility was not good, but we kept our fingers crossed. As we were about to find out that when visibility is low the, first flights to cancel are the smaller planes. All was good until about an hour before our flight was to leave and all of sudden we see that the flight to Quebec City is now cancelled.

The first flight out for our boys was 2 days later and all our kids would not leave until Sunday (5 days later). Well that would not be good enough. So after a couple of hours of wrangling on the phone and some quick phone calls back to the RBC center the decision to rent a bus was made. Coach USA came to the rescue and for a small sum the boys collected their equipment and heading to the doors to await the bus. Joining us on the long impromptu bus trip was Karen and John Bisi and their daughter as well as Larry Tucker. They had also been on our flight and did not want to wait until Friday to get to Quebec City.

The bus trip was a good bonding experience and after 9 hours of travel through New Jersey, New York, Vermont and Quebec the team arrived in Quebec City at 2 am. Our Billet Captain, Alain Desfosses, was there to meet us plus a handful of parents who had managed to make it to Quebec City that night. Normally the kids go to the Billets that first night, but due to the late arrival they all spread out in what hotel rooms we had and found a bed or a cot.

The great thing is all our equipment was there. Quebec City had record snow falls this past winter and when we got up we saw the 7 foot high snow piles and the boys could not wait to get to snowballs and the outdoor rinks. After a practice that first day to get the legs loose we took the boys to meet their billets and send them to their new homes for the next 12 days.

Friday February 15 brought us our first two exhibition games and a great way to get into the tournament atmosphere. The first game would be against Slovenia. This was a solid game and reinforced the idea that we had a very good hockey club. We started with a 4 to 0 win as Alex Bisi recorded his first shutout of a record breaking tournament.

After a quick one hour break the boys were back on the ice against the Colorado Avalanche. The team started right where they left off from the first game. After 2 and half period the Jr. Canes were up 4 to 2 and dominated the game thus far at that time the wheels fell off. The Avalanche struck for 4 goals in less than 4 minutes to hand the Jr. Canes a 6 to 4 loss. Oh well. They boys then enjoyed the rest of the day off and walked around the Old City a bit with their parents. Quebec is a tremendous place, rich in history and the 400 year old walls and buildings are a site to see. The winter snow only adds to the romantic and historic feel.

Then Friday night the team joined in another Jr. Canes tradition where the billets, team and parents meet on top of Mount Tourbillon for a very good meal and some introductions and thanks for all those that make this happen.

Mount T has hosted the Jr. Canes and the billets in this reception for 7 years. Saturday brought our first game against an AAA team from Halifax. The Halifax Mooseheads were in the AA bracket and would prove to be a tough test before our first tournament game. The Mooseheads played us tough, but again the Jr. Canes proved to be up to the challenge. Again the solid play of goaltender Alex Bisi resulted in a shutout and a Jr. Canes 1 to 0 win.

After the game the kids got to enjoy one of the reasons this tournament is so popular, Le Carnaval! Saturday is the last day of the Carnival and it is quite the site to see. The large Icehouse that is put together every year for this event, The family friendly Mardi Gras style parade and carnival on the historic Grande Allee and the Plains of Abraham. This is where you can enjoy tube rides and eat maple sugar on a stick rolled in snow. You can witness the snow sculptures that are carved by countries from all over the world. It is topped off by a large parade down the Grand Allee. It is truly a site to see and a big part of the trip.

Sunday would be the day we all waited 6 months for, the first tournament game at Le Colisee. The boys would arrive at 6:45 am and get ready to face Austria in hopes of advancing to the second round. The Jr. Canes faced Austria a few years back in the second round and defeated them by a scored of 2 to 0. As is the tradition the boys would get a team picture before their first tournament game that the Hurricanes would purchase for each of them.

We lost the puck toss and would be the home team and wear our whites (home team gets you no advantage). The only disadvantage, if you could call it that, was that your bench was on the other side of the ice from the dressing rooms. The game was a solid one for the Jr. Canes and after keeping Austria in the game for the first two periods, taking a 3 to 2 lead into the third period, they finally broke it open for 3 goals in the third to finish with a 6 to 2 victory. Yeehaw! The Jr. Canes would go to the second round and face Lachine, a team out of Montreal Quebec.

After the game the team would partake in a true Canadian tradition, some pond hockey. The boys had already played on the outdoor rink with their billet families and it is probably the highlight of all the boy's trips. This year we decided to get the team out with the billets and overrun the rink with an army from Carolina. The locals did not know what to think as we had a good 30 billets, coaches, parents and players overtaking their outdoor rink. We split up the teams into two: Locals and Billets VS players and Coaches. Boy did the kids from Carolina get slaughtered. The local's and the billets took this game personally and there is something to be said for good old fashioned Canadian desire for the puck. After a 40 to 6 (something like that) drubbing the only real highlights for the day on the Hurricane side was the solid body check by yours truly on Brian "ugh" Anderson (keep your head up) and a cut over the eye of one of the billets. Charlie Pelnik also had a bloody nose, so all in all it was a true Canadian hockey experience. All except for the fact that it was a mild minus 10 degree's Celsius.



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Monday brought two more exhibition games against Suisse Romande and Baden Württemberg from Germany. Baden was first up and they played us solid, but our boys were riding high and got out to a quick 2 to 0 lead. At first it looked like it would be point night for the kids, but Baden kept coming and closed the door. Early in the second we took a 3 to 0 lead and the team was on its way. Logan Halladay played tremendously in net and his only blemish was a second period penalty shot to the glove side. The final score was 3 to 1 for the Jr. Canes.

Switzerland has three teams in this tournament and we would eventually play two of them. Suisse Romande is made up of kids from the western part of Switzerland that is near the French border. This was the toughest game so far and would be our last game before the first tournament game the next morning.

The Suisse came at us hard, but again our team played very well. They fore checked and put tremendous pressure on our defense. They had lost their first tournament game and looked like they were making up for that loss with a lot of hard work. Alex Bisi was back in net for the Jr. Canes and the team weathered the Suisse storm to register a 2 to 2 tie.

Next up was Lachine at Le Colisee for the second round tournament game. The winner would face a tough Hershey squad. Lachine, out of Montreal, Quebec, was clearly the fan favorite and some boos could be heard ever now and then. The Jr. Canes started out the game very nervous, but were clearly the better team. After the first period the game was a scoreless tie and the coaches laid into the team. The shot total was only 4 to 2 and we were letting the other team stay in the game. Corey Kennedy and Alex Pretty responded well in the second period and put the team back on track and gave the Jr. Canes a 2 to 0 lead. The third period was more of the same and the Jr. Canes finished the game with a 4 to 0 win and a final shot total of 32 for and 7 against. Alex Bisi registered another shutout for his 3 of the tournament and a Jr. Canes record for one year.

The next day we had a full day scheduled. We were playing Acadia-Bathurst, another AAA team from New Brunswick Canada in the morning, The Valcartier Snow Park in the afternoon and then the Quebec Ramparts game in the evening. First up was Acadia. Acadia was a very good team and tested our boys. We looked a little sluggish though and it seemed that the week was catching up with the kids. The game ended in a 2-2 tie and the coaching staff had a decision to make.

It was decided that the kids looked really tired and the Snow Park would be postponed for the day and the kids would spend some time back at the hotel relaxing, after all we had a tournament game the next day and the Quebec Ramparts game that night.

The Ramparts game is also another tradition. It is coached by Patrick Roy and in the past two years the team has boasted such talents as Alexander Radulov of the Nashville Predators and Angelo Esposito a first round draft choice of the Pittsburgh Penguins. The billets, the parents and the team all come to the game together and it is usually a great experience. This year's game was a dud as the Ramparts lost to the number one team in the league 7 to 1.

One interesting thing about this game is the Pin Trading that takes place on the concourse. Pin trading is always a huge part of this tournament. It takes place on the concourse during the peewee tournament and is led by a group of men who are professional traders. The kids are supplied with pins from their teams and the quests for the best pin is on from the get go.

There is a criterion for the best pin and it goes like this; first you need a large pin and the larger the better. The Hurricanes always have a first class pin and the design department led by Kara Kelly and Ben Aycock take great pride in these rare pins. That leads to the second criterion, the rarer the better. The Hurricanes only make about 150 of these large pins and the kids get about 6 of those. Other teams make larger pins, but they produce about 500 of them, so the Hurricane pins are very valuable. Other criterion of a good pin is movable parts and how far your team makes it in the tournament. The pin trading at the Ramparts game turns into a free for all. The professional dealers are not there and the kids become the de-facto dealers. It is a great swarm of humanity bartering for the best pins. Most of the teams are at this ramparts game and they all huddle in this small area looking to make the best deal possible. It is always fun to have the kids on the team come up to the coaches to ask your opinion on a trade deal they have been offered or to boast about their 3 for 1 deal they just made.

Thursday was next up and the third round game against Hershey. The kids seemed a little more nervous then the previous game and were very quiet in the dressing room. Hershey is a very good team and was coached by the GM of the AHL Hershey Bears team. The kids knew some of the players on the Hershey squad and felt they were in for a tough game.

The nervous energy in the dressing room translated to the ice and our Jr. Canes looked jittery from the start. This was not the team that went 4 wins 1 loss and 2 ties so far this trip. They were working hard, but they were throwing the puck away and were afraid to make the plays that they had no trouble making in earlier games. Sure enough Hershey scored first and put the Canes down 1 to 0.

In the second period the Jr. Canes got rolling a little bit and showed flashes of what they could do as they scored back to back goals to go up 2 to 1 heading into the third. However you could still tell that the Jr. Canes were still unsure of themselves making some very uncharacteristic plays and fighting the puck. Nevertheless, the Jr. Canes held a slim one goal lead until late in the third when the Bears were given a power play with 4 minutes left. They took advantage and scored on the man advantage and sent the game into overtime.

The overtime was a tough one and the Jr. Canes could not convert on the man-advantage and Hershey ended up scoring the game winner with 2 minutes to play on a weird bounce that went 5 feet in the air and trickled into the net amongst a throng of diving defensemen, forwards and goaltenders.

Hershey wins 3 to 2 and eliminates the Jr. Canes from the tournament. It was disappointing, but the team still performed well and has shown how far hockey has come in the south. It was interesting that when the Hershey kids came off the ice they were being video taped and one kid shouted "We just beat the Best team here and now we are going to win the whole thing!." This is the most telling sign that Carolina has garnered some respect in the USA hockey community.



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What to do now? Well we got on the phone with the Exhibition committee and found two more game really quick. One the next day, Friday, against North Vancouver another AAA team that came within one goal of almost upsetting the Russian Red Army earlier that day and would be a very tough game. We also managed to get a Saturday game against the Swiss Eastern Selects.

Vancouver would be our rebound game. In the dressing room before the game we reminded the kids that they did not have to be nervous. We reminded them that they were a good hockey club and the pressure was off. Boy did they take that to heart. The Vancouver team did not give us much of a chance and scored an early goal to take a 1 to 0 lead. Our boys did not quit at all. Devin Warfield tied the game up in the third and we kept the pressure on. After Alex Bisi shut the door in the first two periods, Logan Halladay entered the pips and kept the door closed as the Hurricanes tied Vancouver 1 to 1. The team earned a lot of respect that day from the team from western Canada and the coaches praised the work ethic and ability of our local kids.

Our next and last game was against the Swiss Eastern Selects; this was the top team out of Switzerland and was from the German speaking part of Switzerland. They played in the AA bracket and were a very good team. The game was kind of a boring one to tell the truth. It was our last full day here and the kids were thinking about the Val Cartier Snow Park that we were going to that afternoon to make up for the postponement earlier in the week. The Swiss team was good and our boys managed to play a solid if uninspired game. The end result was another 2 to 2 tie.

The Snow Park was next on the agenda and the boys took full advantage. The Snow Park is another tradition and is a big part of the whole experience of this tournament, especially for southern kids who do not see much snow. The Snow Park is a maze of rides that range from the massive, Mt. Everest and Himalaya, to some smaller runs that are packed with tubes. It is truly a great day for the boys.

The trip is always topped off with a team dinner at Thomas Tam's. The Wong's are a billet family that owns a few Chinese buffets in town and the team has one last meeting with the parents and billets to give thanks and had out some gifts. The Hurricanes give the billets a signed Lithograph for their wall in thanks for taking such great care of the kids. The Billet Captain, Alain Desfosses, is rewarded with all kids of gifts. The kids receive their team photos of the Tournament team and some great food is consumed.

The trip home was almost as eventful, but I will leave that to another day. I will simply say that the airlines need an entire revamp.

All in all, this trip was the best I have been on yet. The team finished with a 5 wins 2 losses and 4 tie record. The Carolina Jr. Hurricanes are on the verge of doing some big things at this tournament and the talent is surely here in the Carolinas'.

I would like to thank everyone for making this trip another tremendous experience.