

THUNDER BAY SPORTOP QUEENS

2009-10 Ontario Women's Hockey Association Midget AA provincial champions



2010 Esso Cup

National Female Midget
Hockey Championship

April 18-24 – Regina, Sask.

Sportop Queens

Team Information Guide





**Thunder Bay Sportop
Midget AA Queens
Team Roster**

NO. PLAYER		Position
4	Brianna Iazzolino	Defence
5	Courtney Tougas	Forward
7	Jana Henry "C"	Forward
8	Michela Cava	Forward
9	Kaitlyn Tougas	Forward
10	Michaela Coulter	Defence
11	Ellia Heroux	Forward
12	Kaitlyn Quarrell "A"	Forward
14	Riley Cronk	Forward
16	Amber Butler	Forward
17	Savanna Gamache	Defence
18	Taylor Savard	Defence
19	Brittany Zuback "A"	Forward
21	Kylie Cornell	Defence
22	Haleigh Croves	Defence
30	Amanda Makela	Goal
35	Megan Leikkari	Goal

Coaching Staff

Denis Lavoie	Head Coach
Dan Lavoie	Assistant Coach
Randy LaPointe	Assistant Coach
Lui Tassone	Goaltender Coach
Crystal Tustian	Manager/Trainer



Thunder Bay set to represent Ontario at Esso Cup

THUNDER BAY, Ont. – The Thunder Bay Sportop Queens are set to represent Ontario at the second annual Esso Cup National Female Midget Hockey Championship April 18-24 in Regina, Sask.

Joining Thunder Bay at this prestigious event will be the host Regina Rebels as well as the respective regional champions from across the country.

They are the Edmonton Thunder (Pacific), Notre Dame Hounds (West), the Remparts du Richelieu (Quebec) and the Moncton Rockets (Atlantic).

The Queens earned the right to play for the province after capturing the Ontario Women's Hockey Association midget AA championship April 9-11 in Mississauga.

Thunder Bay posted an impressive 6-0 record at the provincials allowing only one goal in the process riding the stellar goaltending of both Amanda Makela and Megan Leikkari en route to the title.

They began round-robin play by posting three consecutive shutouts blanking the Saugeen-Maitland Lightning, Burlington Barracudas and Niagara Falls Rapids by scores of 3-0, 2-0 and 1-0 respectively.

Winning their division the club then moved directly to the quarterfinals where they met the Kingston Ice Wolves and skated away with a 4-1 victory.

Moving on to semifinal action the Queens took on the Willowdale Red Wings and were once again victorious, posting a 3-0 win.

Advancing to the championship game, the Stoney Creek Sabres and Thunder Bay played to a scoreless draw through regulation time only to see Michela Cava strike early in extra time giving the Queens their first provincial midget AA crown since 2000. They also mined provincial silver medals in 2007.



**Thunder Bay Sportop
Midget AA Queens
Tournament/Showcase Results**

Sept. 26-27

St. Cloud State University Showcase

St. Cloud, Minn.

1-2 record

Lost 3-2 in consolation final to
Minnesota Midwest Elite U-19

Oct. 9-11

Minnesota Crunch Showcase

Grand Rapids, Minn.

4-0 record

Defeated Sault Ste. Marie Wildcats

4-2 in final

Oct. 30 – Nov. 1

Shattuck-St. Mary's Invitational

Faribault, Minn.

4-0 record

Defeated Shattuck-St. Mary's Sabres U-16

2-1 in final

Nov. 27-29

Minnesota Thoroughbreds Tournament

St. Paul, Minn

3-1 record

Dec. 11-13

Queens Showcase Weekend

Thunder Bay, Ont.

4-1 record

Defeated Minnesota Crunch

3-2 in overtime of final

Jan. 28-31

Saskatoon Classic

Saskatoon, Sask.

3-0-1 record

Defeated Prince Albert Bears 4-2

in A side consolation final

Feb. 12-14

Westman Wildcats Tournament

Hartney, Man.

3-0-1 record

April 9-11

OWHA Provincials

Mississauga, Ont.

6-0 record

Defeated Stoney Creek Sabres 1-0 in OT of final



Season-in-Review

The Thunder Bay Sportop Queens are coming off a very successful season heading into the Esso Cup in Regina.

Playing against a wide array of competition in both Canada and the United States the squad posted a record of 37-11-7 that included competing against boys teams within the Thunder Bay Minor Hockey Association.

The club also took part in a total of seven showcase, tournament and provincial events throughout the season registering an impressive win-loss-tie record of 28-4-2.

Overall championship laurels were won in four of these events as well as picking up another A side consolation triumph to their credit.

Thunder Bay's first tourney triumph came in October when they went a perfect 4-0 en route to claiming the title of the Minnesota Crunch Showcase in Grand Rapids, Minn., where they defeated the Sault Ste. Marie Wildcats 4-2 in the title game.

The next golden moment came just a few weeks later as they finished first with a 4-0 mark at the Shattuck-St. Mary's Invitational in Faribault, Minn., including a 2-1 triumph over the highly-touted Shattuck-St. Mary's U-16 side in the championship contest.

Home ice proved favourable for Thunder Bay in December when they won the Queens annual showcase event defeating the Minnesota Crunch 3-2 in overtime in the gold medal game.

The squad would also go a combined 6-0-2 in tournaments in Saskatoon, Sask., and Hartney, Man., before moving on to the OWHA provincial championships where they rolled to the impressive 6-0 run conceding only the one goal while scoring 15 times against their opponents.



2010 Esso Cup

National Female Midget Hockey Championship

April 18-24 – Regina, Sask.

All games played at Co-operators Centre at Evraz Place

Event web site: www.hockeycanada.ca/essocup

Competing teams

Host – Regina Rebels

Pacific – Edmonton Thunder

Western – Notre Dame Hounds

Ontario – Thunder Bay Sportop Queens

Quebec – Remparts du Richelieu

Atlantic – Moncton Rockets

Game Schedule

Sunday, April 18

Richelieu vs. Moncton 12 p.m.

Notre Dame vs. Edmonton 4 p.m.

Thunder Bay Sportop Queens vs. Regina 8 p.m.

Monday, April 19

Richelieu vs. Notre Dame 12 p.m.

Edmonton vs. Thunder Bay Sportop Queens 4 p.m.

Moncton vs. Regina 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 20

Thunder Bay Sportop Queens vs. Richelieu 12 p.m.

Notre Dame vs. Moncton 4 p.m.

Regina vs. Edmonton 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 21

Moncton vs. Thunder Bay Sportop Queens 12 p.m.

Edmonton vs. Richelieu 4 p.m.

Regina vs. Notre Dame 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 22

Moncton vs. Edmonton 9:30 a.m.

Notre Dame vs. Thunder Bay Sportop Queens 1 p.m.

Richelieu vs. Regina 4:30 p.m.

Friday, April 23

Semifinal #1—2nd round robin vs. 3rd round robin 2 p.m.

Semifinal #2—1st round robin vs. 4th round robin 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 24

Bronze Medal Game 10 a.m.

Gold/Silver Medal Game 4 p.m.

(All start times listed in Central Standard Time)

Esso Cup Information

The 2010 Esso Cup marks just the second time the national female midget hockey championship will be staged.

The inaugural event was held last year in Calgary with the Westman Wildcats from Manitoba, representing the Western Region, being crowned champions.

They defeated the Scarborough Sharks of Ontario in the title game while the host Calgary Flyers won the bronze medal in front of the home town faithful.

The Edmonton Thunder are making their second straight appearance at the Esso Cup thus becoming the only repeat team to compete in the brief history of the event. They punched their second ticket to compete nationally after sweeping the Thompson-Okanagan Rockets and not allowing a goal in two games to capture the Pacific region crown.

Notre Dame captured the Western title after edging the Pembina Valley Hawks of Manitoba in a pair of closely contested games by scores of 4-3 in the opener and 3-2 in the finale.

Quebec will be represented by the Remparts du Richelieu who upended the Cyclones du Bas St-Laurent 4-1 to become the first team from that province to vie for the national title.

Atlantic Canada saw Moncton advance after they got by Metro Boston Pizza of Halifax 4-1 in the deciding game of that regional qualifier.

Rounding out the six-team field will be the host Regina Rebels.

Following round-robin action April 18-22 the top four clubs will compete in semifinal action on April 23 while those same squads will play for the medals the following day.

The gold medal game is set to be broadcast on TSN2 at 4 p.m. CT on Saturday, April 24.

St. Albert, Alta., will host the 2011 Esso Cup.



The Thunder Bay Queens

Rep Division, Thunder Bay Women's Hockey
#400-1184 Roland St.
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7B 5M4

www.thunderbayqueens.com (Web site)

Executive

Rep Director – Doug Henry
Secretary/Registrar – Dr. William Turner
Treasurer – Brent Stajkowski
Ice Convener – Debbie Zuback
Public Relations/Sponsorship – Carrie Vescio

Member Clubs

Sportop Midget AA
Ontario Power Generation Midget A
Winning Streak Charters Bantam AA
Air Bravo Bantam A
Taranis Contracting Peewee

Notable Alumna

Haley Irwin

2010 Olympic Gold Medalist, Canada
University of Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs, WCHA

Katie Weatherston

2006 Olympic Gold Medalist, Canada
2007 IIHF World Champion, Canada
Dartmouth College, ECAC

Jenna McParland

2010 IIHF World U-18 Gold Medalist, Canada
2009 Canadian U-18 Gold Medalist, Ontario
University of Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs, WCHA

Brittany Francis

Senior Co-Captain
University of Minnesota Golden Gophers, WCHA

Jacqueline Spring

Senior Co-Captain
Niagara University Purple Eagles, CHA

The Thunder Bay Queens

Competing within the auspices of the Thunder Bay Women's Hockey Association and the OWHA the Queens program runs a total of five representative teams in the midget, bantam and peewee age groups.

Those five clubs include the Sportop Midget AA, Ontario Power Generation Midget A, Winning Streak Charters Bantam AA, Air Bravo Bantam A and the Taranis Contracting peewees.

During the 2009-10 hockey season no less than 14 former members of the Queens organization competed at the collegiate, university, national or international level.

Among the more notable Queens alumna are Haley Irwin who helped Canada win a gold medal at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver.

2006 Olympic gold medalist Katie Weatherston is also a former member of the Queens. She also helped Canada win the 2007 IIHF Women's World Hockey Championship.

Yet another recent world champion with ties to the Queens organization is Jenna McParland who just last month aided in Canada's gold medal performance at the 2010 World under-18 championship in suburban Chicago, Ill. She also has a Canadian national U-18 gold medal to her credit helping lead Team Ontario to the title in November in Surrey, B.C.

There are also 23 former players from the Queens organization that went on to play collegiate and university hockey in the U.S. and Canada at various points of their respective careers.

It is the efforts of these players and many more that has made the Queens Program one of the premier female hockey organizations in all of Canada.