

CLIPPER SPORTS

High School Hockey Round-Up

Wild Celebrate Successful Program

The Powerview-Sagkeeng Wild have a veteran crew returning, as 14 players are back from last season. That's good because their home rinks had yet to open when camp began, leaving the Wild to travel to Beausejour for a few skates.

Coach Paul Magnan expects big things from some of those veterans, beginning with 2023-24 top scorer Connor Bruyere. In 24 games, Bruyere scored 15 times and added 20 assists for 35 points. He scored four times and added four assists in three playoff games. Over his three-year high school career, Bruyere has tallied 37 goals and 44 assists for 81 points in 69 games.

"He'll really help us," Magnan said. "We're excited about him."

Captain Sebastian Gui-

mond returns for his final campaign, looking to build on an 11-goal, 12-assist season. Ryder Sinclair looks to be a key player in his second turn through the league after posting four goals and six assists. Joining him are Kayson Fontaine (8-11-19) and Anson Simard (4-2-6).

Landon Guimond has developed into a reliable goaltender. Magnan credited him with continued improvement throughout last season. A quartet of strong defencemen in Alex Grenier, Jace Harry, Logan Laforte and Silas Couchene will move the puck.

The coach is just as excited about what's happening off the ice. There'll be a day game before Christmas that students will attend. In addition to raising the noise level, it will raise supplies for the local food bank. There will also be

some early Friday evening games, which have been hits elsewhere in the league.

Magnan is proud of his players beyond the wins and losses. The focus is on developing student-athletes. If they don't perform in the classroom, they don't get to play.

"I'm real happy about that part of it," Magnan said. "We want them to be student-athletes instead of just hockey players. I think the kids are buying into it."

"If I can keep 17 of them in school and 17 of them being student-athletes, that's a good thing too. They'll graduate, and some may go onto college and university."

The veteran coach is proud of the many ex-Wild players making their marks in larger hockey circles.

"I can't wait to see a CRJHL game between the Selkirk Fishermen and

Beausejour Comets. I'll have 11 or 12 players on the ice."

Sabres Moving Up

The Springfield Sabres have been rewarded for their many successful seasons with a bump to the WHSHL's top division, where they'll play Manitoba's best high school teams. That doesn't bother coach Severyn Wojcik.

"It doesn't change a thing," Wojcik said. "We have a strong team, and we'll be content in any division."

Build a successful program, and the players will come. Springfield has done that, as evidenced by a camp that saw 36 players run out of room.

The list of returning players includes top scorers Evan Suchar, Parker Fazio and Cam Osborne. Joining them is goalie and 2023-24 playoff MVP Matt Lidgett. Defensive stalwarts Liam Bruchanski, Max Sholdra, Taigan Newton and Tristan Dickenson will be relied upon heavily.

Springfield's attack is bolstered by the additions of Grade 12 students Cam Sylvester and Hayden Kochen. The 6'-4", 210-pound Sylvester is a former Eastman Select who scored twice this year in the Selects' season opener. Kochen had nine goals and nine assists for the 2023-24 Selects.

The Sabres' lineup is balanced between Grade 10-12 players, something Wojcik admits is a stroke of luck, as the coaching staff



File photo

The Powerview-Sagkeeng Wild have 14 returning players from last year's squad.

selected the Top 20 players regardless of age. In 2023-24, Newton was the only Grade 10 student to crack the lineup. This season, six did: Hayden Hart, Everett Hordijk, Ethan Kerr, Ethan Letkeman, Grady MacDonald and Trey Robertson.

"We're seeing strong

kids from the Eastman Northern Knights and Springfield Ice Hawks programs," Wojcik said.

The journey begins with their 11th annual Springfield Sabres Homecoming Tournament in Oakbank on Oct. 11-12.

- Zerucha



Pickleball Donation

The Lac du Bonnet Pickleball League recently presented Lac du Bonnet Community Centre coordinator Sheli Veilleux (centre) with a \$2,000 donation for the facility. The funds were raised by the league through increased participation in the popular sport over the last few years.

THE CLIPPER is celebrating **SMALL BUSINESS WEEK**

OCTOBER 17 EDITION

To celebrate the success of our local small business community, The Clipper will be featuring a special Small Business Celebration section as part of our October 17th edition.

If you wish to capitalize on this excellent marketing and promotion tool by purchasing advertising space, you may also submit a 100 word paragraph describing your small business. We will include your submission as part of our featured section on the success and necessity of local small businesses, at no additional charge.

CONTACT THE CLIPPER FOR DETAILS!

Traci 204-268-4700, traci@clipper.mb.ca (Springfield/Beausejour/Brokenhead)
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In the October 24 edition

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NEXT EDITION BOOKING DEADLINE: 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21