



AROUND THE SIJHL

SIJHL alumni off to NHL camps

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THUNDER BAY, Ont. – As National Hockey League rookie camps and tournaments get underway this week a number of Superior International Junior Hockey League alumni will be travelling to numerous locales across Canada and the U.S. to take part.

The San Jose Sharks has a pair of SIJHL alums as part of their prospects team that will compete in a five-team Young Stars tournament in Penticton, B.C.

Both Carter Hutton (Fort William North Stars) and Luke Judson (Thunder Bay Bearcats) are on the Sharks rookie roster that will compete in the tourney that runs Sept. 12-16.

Hutton, who still holds the SIJHL single season shutout record of 10, was signed to a contract by San Jose in the off-season following a stellar career at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. The 24-year-old netminder also had a brief appearance with the Philadelphia Flyers at the end of last season. Judson, 19, meanwhile is attending as a free agent and currently serves as the youngest captain in the Ontario Hockey League with the Belleville Bulls.

Also venturing to camps is a pair of former Fort William North Stars in Robert Bortuzzo and Michael MacDonald. Bortuzzo, 21, will compete with fellow Pittsburgh Penguins prospects at a four-team rookie tourney in London, Ont.

The towering 6'-4" defenceman, chosen by the Penguins in the third round, 78th overall, in the 2007 NHL Entry Draft is entering the second of a three-year contract with Pittsburgh having just played his first year of professional hockey with the Penguins American Hockey League affiliate in Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, Penn.

As for MacDonald, he'll be suiting up as a free agent for the Carolina Hurricanes rookie squad that is taking part in an eight-team NHL rookie event in Traverse City, Mich. The 19-year-old forward played for Team West in the 2008 Canadian Jr. Hockey League Prospects Game in Summerside, P.E.I.

MacDonald completed his first full campaign of major junior hockey in 2009-10 with the London Knights of the OHL amassing 45 points, including 25 goals. That was the fourth highest point total among all first-year skaters in the OHL last season.



CJHL RANKINGS: The Canadian Junior Hockey League in conjunction with NHL Central Scouting announced their preseason Top 20 Rankings today with the reigning SIJHL champion Fort William North Stars cracking the list.

The North Stars were tabbed 16th overall heading into the 2010-11 campaign, which for the SIJHL commences Sept. 16. The back-to-back Royal Bank Cup champion Vernon Vipers of the BCHL enter the season as the top ranked club in the nation.

The following is the CJHL preseason Top 20 as compiled by NHL Central Scouting:

RANK	TEAM	LEAGUE	RANK	TEAM	LEAGUE
1	Vernon Vipers	BCHL	11	Woodstock Slammers	MJAHL
2	Dauphin Kings	MJHL	12	Grand Prairie Storm	AJHL
3	Penticton Vees	BCHL	13	Pembroke Lumber Kings	CHL
4	Oakville Blades	OJHL	14	La Ronge Ice Wolves	SJHL
5	Brockville Braves	CHL	15	Alberni Valley Bulldogs	BCHL
6	Fort McMurray Oil Barons	AJHL	16	Fort William North Stars	SIJHL
7	Kingston Voyageurs	OJHL	17	Wellington Dukes	OJHL
8	Camrose Kodiaks	AJHL	18	Winnipeg Saints	MJHL
9	Flin Flon Bombers	SJHL	19	Abitibi Eskimos	NOJHL
10	Spruce Grove Saints	AJHL	20	Les Cobras de Terrebonne	LHJAAA

PRESEASON PLAY CONTINUES: The remaining scheduled preseason and exhibition games in store for the six Superior International Junior Hockey League clubs conclude this week leading up to the start of the SIJHL's 10th anniversary campaign Sept. 16.

Among the seven remaining games on the slate this week will be the on-ice debuts of the both the Duluth Clydesdales and Wisconsin Wilderness. The two newest members of the SIJHL will meet in Spooner, Wis., on Saturday. Puck drop at the Northwest Sports Complex is set for 2 p.m. Wisconsin also plays in the Fort Sunday.

Meanwhile the Dryden Ice Dogs, Fort Frances Lakers and Sioux Lookout Flyers will complete their three-team, home-and-home-and-home series. Also in store is a three-game Manitoba road swing for the Fort William North Stars as they'll take on the Portage Terriers twice as well as a single encounter vs. the Winnipeg Blues over the course of the weekend.

SIJHL Preseason/Exhibition Game Results/Schedule (Times subject to change)

DAY	DATE	VISITOR (SCORE)	HOME (SCORE)	TIME	ARENA
Wednesday	Sept. 1	Fort Frances (6)	Dryden (5)	OT Final	Memorial
Friday	Sept. 3	Sioux Lookout (2)	Fort Frances (5)	Final	Ice For Kids
Saturday	Sept. 4	Sioux Lookout (3)	Dryden (2)	OT Final	Memorial
Tuesday	Sept. 7	Dryden (5)	Sioux Lookout (4)	7:30 p.m.	Memorial
Wednesday	Sept. 8	Dryden	Fort Frances	7:30 p.m.	Ice For Kids
Friday	Sept. 10	Fort Frances	Sioux Lookout	7:30 p.m.	Memorial
Friday	Sept. 10	Fort William	Portage Terriers (MJHL)	7:30 p.m.	PCU Centre
Saturday	Sept. 11	Duluth	Wisconsin	2 p.m.	Sports Complex
Saturday	Sept. 11	Fort William	Portage Terriers (MJHL)	7:30 p.m.	PCU Centre
Sunday	Sept. 12	Fort William	Winnipeg Blues (MJHL)	2 p.m.	MTS Iceplex
Sunday	Sept. 12	Wisconsin	Fort Frances	2:30 p.m.	Ice For Kids