

2023 Hamilton Junior B Bengals Report

The season began with some positives. The club had acquired a number of new sponsors for the season.

Once again, due to the ice situation the team had to start the season at a different arena. The team played the first four home games at Rosedale Arena before moving back to Dave Andreychuk Arena for game 5 and beyond.

The club was sent in to a slight scramble mode early when the OLA announced a suspension to our general manager and head coach for 2 years for participating in an off-season CLL event.

The initial appeal was denied but the club is hoping to have this matter resolved prior to the 2024 season.

Derek Campbell stepped up to the plate immediately and took over the head coaching duties for the club and was assisted by Jordan Gillis and newcomer Andy Boldt who was a solid addition to the staff.

Dave Colbourne came on in a GM capacity to assist and was a strong addition as well. It was a lot of change and everyone worked through it.

Circumstances also saw our Game Day Director have to leave after the first 2 games due to work commitments and this also created a void.

The season also saw 0-zilla Radio take over the music and in game hosting for the season. There was some growing pains but we look forward to them being a growing part of our game day presentations.

On the floor the team had an up and down season with a number of key injuries that caused a lot of man games lost. The young players from our affiliates did an admirable job filling in and the club finished with a 10-9-1 record for a 6th place finish. A hard fought first round against St Catharines saw us bow out, losing the best of five series 3 games to 2.

Next season (2024) is poised to be an exciting one for our club. Lacrosse Canada has named us as the host for the 2024 Founder's Cup National Junior B Championship.

Planning is well underway and the engagement with the city and a number of services are progressing smoothly to date.

We are planning a public meeting soon to lay out the plans and the needs for the tournament, we will be soliciting volunteers and sponsors for the season and the Founder's.

Crucial for us is we need to recruit a new Game Day Operations Director as well as a dedicated Social Media Manager. Chris's assistance with our social media has been outstanding but we need to bring it to the next level with a full time member of the club handling this aspect on a day to day basis, especially with the Founder's. It is a tremendous opportunity to get some publicity for both our team and our game.

Respectfully submitted

Gary Gallant

Director of Junior Operations