



2022 Alberta Series Lacrosse Commissioner's Report

Our first season in 3 years!!!! This was probably the longest off-season in the history of lacrosse with no regular season being played in 2020 or 2021.

Teams opened camp with 70 man rosters, the result of three full drafts, and no training camp or season played to evaluate the draft picks. Even though on paper our teams had an abundance of riches, in reality, we had a couple of teams struggle to pull together a game day roster of 20 players on a consistent basis. This has been an ongoing challenge at the Sr B level since I joined the league as a player in 2005. I've been watching and studying the situation during my term 5 years as commissioner and this pandemic break of two years brought some clarity, as well as muddle some of the facts.

What I have found is that teams run with a full organizational structure are faring much better than the teams being run as a one or two man show.

I have noticed the draft picks made do not necessarily convert into active players often. There are many ongoing aspects to this problem-in the south many draft picks head to A ball in BC, many picks do not return from college until mid-late May, and many had no desire to move on to Sr B. We also face issues that many players the have come through the draft recently are related to one franchise in one way or another, so it gets a little messy when one team drafts a player whose father may be coaching or managing another team etc.

Lastly, coming out of the pandemic some players decided a two year break was to difficult to return from, some may have been nervous to return due to ongoing outbreaks, and some could not afford to return after two years of being out of work or lost hours etc.

As I reflect on the amount of work a draft is for the 5 teams, I have been investigating a recruitment model instead, where teams would meet with prospects and sell themselves as the right fit. This model works very well in the Alberta junior Hockey League, and it has naturally bred many community relationships as teams partner with gyms, restaurants, and other local businesses to offer the best experience for their players.

The ASL teams played a 12 game season with a round robin schedule, playing each opponent 3 times. It was a balanced schedule, with unbalanced travel. The outlaws forfeited 2 games due to player-personnel issues with a covid outbreak.

It took all of 54 minutes and 54 second of the first game of the season for our first suspension of the season a Game Misconduct for Verbal Abuse of Officials. I found this disturbing as our officials had not seen real game action since 2019, and there is no way for them to practice judgement. We had one other suspension in the remaining 29 regular season games and a fine for an Illegal Player to one team.

The Miners finished first overall with a 10-1-1 record, Rebels second with a 7-4-1 record, Mounties 7-5-0, Knights 4-8-0 and the Outlaws finished with a 1-11-0 record.

The Miners defeated the Mounties in the Provincial Championship series 3-1 in the best of 5 series. Both teams attended the President's Cup in Edmonton, with the Miners hosting the Championship tournament.

Yours truly,

Norm Shaw
Alberta Series Lacrosse Commissioner