



JOURNAL Monthly Newsletter

Keeping you informed about your home town team



Dragons forward Chad Hurtubise – Photo by Andrew Beattie

What's up with those grey jerseys?

Fans who took in the first regular season games on September 23rd and 24th were treated to an entirely new jersey style and logo, and overall the reactions to the new uniforms were positive.

“There were a handful of people who came up to me at the games and told me they liked the new jerseys,” said Dragons Business Manager, Amanda Stahl. “That’s exactly the reaction we were looking for when we designed them, and so far I haven’t heard anything negative.”

Stahl also noted that several people asked about the new logo. “It’s obviously not our trademark logo, but it’s just a fun alternative that we wanted to introduce last season in anticipation for the new jerseys this season. We were going for a vintage look

with the classic stripes and the tie-up neck, and we felt that the alternate logo really pulled the whole style together.”

When asked why the organization chose grey for their jersey colour, Stahl noted “when we brought in grey jerseys for our Pack the House for Charity event last year, the response was so overwhelmingly positive that we wanted to bring them back and wear them consistently this season. Plus, grey is the dominant colour of the dragon in our logo, so we thought it worked with our colour scheme.”

The Dragons will wear their grey jerseys at home until the new year when the entire league switches home and away colours. Replica grey jerseys are available for purchase in the Dragons Den.

New year, new faces

Dragons fans may have noticed that there are a couple new faces behind the Drumheller Dragons bench this season.

Gavin Holcomb, who was assistant coach of the Dragons for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 seasons, moved on from coaching hockey to pursue a career in insurance brokerage. He and his wife, Shelby, moved back to their home province of Saskatchewan in April of 2016, right after the season ended last year. Not long after, Shelby gave birth to a baby boy named Camden. Their presence in Drumheller will be missed, but Gavin's absence left a void for an assistant coach that needed to be filled.

Enter Darryl "Oly" Olsen. Oly was born in Calgary but has spent the past 15 years in the U.S. doing professional skill development. He and his wife, Chrissy, decided it was time to move their family back to Alberta just as the Dragons advertised the opening for an assistant coach, so he jumped at the opportunity to apply for the role.

Dragons Head Coach and GM, Brian Curran, admitted that Oly and his many hockey credentials made him stand out among the other applicants.

"He's played the game so he knows and understands the game," said Curran. "Plus he has spent many years in skill development. I thought by adding Darryl there was no question in my mind that he was going to improve our players immensely."

Upon finishing his junior hockey career in 1985 with the St. Albert Saints of the AJHL, Oly played four years in the NCAA for Northern Michigan University. He then went on to play professional hockey in the U.S. and Europe from 1989-2000, and even played one game in the NHL with the Calgary Flames in the 1991-92 season. Immediately following his hockey career, Oly began coaching hockey clinics and developing skills in players at all levels including KIJHL, BCJHL, USHL, NAHL, AJHL, SJHL, WHL, ACHA, NCAA, various European leagues and NHL and their affiliates.

The other new face behind the bench is Athletic Therapist and Equipment Manager, Rachele Matisz. Matisz takes over for Michelle Beatty, who was with

the Dragons for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 seasons but moved onto the collegiate level as the Athletic Therapist for the Portage College Voyageurs men's hockey team of the ACAC.

Originally from Saskatchewan, Matisz comes to the Dragons from the University of Manitoba Bisons women's hockey team, where she was the Athletic Therapist for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 seasons.

"We are very happy to have Rachele join our organization," said Curran. "It is probably one of the hardest things as a coach to find someone so qualified and it certainly will make the players and their parents happy to be getting excellent care."

Matisz is a certified Athletic Therapist with the Canadian Athletic Therapists Association. She earned her Bachelor of Kinesiology from the University of Saskatchewan in 2013, and her certification in Athletic Therapy from the University of Manitoba in 2016.

The Drumheller Dragons would like to welcome both Coach Oly and Rachele to the Drumheller Valley.



Rachele Matisz

Recent & Upcoming Birthdays

October 7 – Darryl Olsen, Assistant Coach

October 20 - #8 Levi Johnson

October 31 – Rod Knelsen, Owner/Vice President

November 4 - #35 Hunter Virostek

Feature Sponsor



This month, the Drumheller Dragons would like to thank our friends at Western GM Drumheller for their ongoing support of the Dragons and their continued dedication to promoting the Dragons within the community. We certainly couldn't operate without our dedicated and loyal sponsors like you.

Team Statistics

As of October 31, 2016

	In October	Overall
Games Played	11	17
Wins	5	7
Losses	4	7
Overtime Losses	2	3
Points	12	17
Goals scored	38	54
Goals against	37	57

Dragons Top Scorers				
Player	GP	G	A	PTS
#14 Jordan Taupert	17	7	13	29
#39 Chad Hurtubise	16	4	16	17
#17 Slater Dykema	16	6	7	13
#10 Evan Rochowiak	15	5	6	11
#18 Joren Patenaude	17	5	6	11
#28 Bradley Stonnell	17	4	5	9

SOUTH DIVISION						NORTH DIVISION					
Team	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	Team	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
Calgary Canucks	18	13	4	1	27	Ft. McMurray Oil Barons	19	14	4	1	29
Brooks Bandits	15	10	3	2	22	Spruce Grove Saints	19	13	4	2	28
Okotoks Oilers	17	10	5	2	22	Whitecourt Wolverines	19	12	4	3	27
Camrose Kodiaks	17	10	6	1	21	Bonnyville Pontiacs	17	13	4	0	26
Canmore Eagles	17	9	6	2	20	Grande Prairie Storm	17	6	8	3	15
Drumheller Dragons	17	7	7	3	17	Sherwood Park Crusaders	17	7	10	0	14
Olds Grizzlys	16	5	9	2	12	Drayton Valley Thunder	16	3	9	4	10
Calgary Mustangs	18	3	15	0	6	Lloydminster Bobcats	15	2	12	1	5



Feature Dragon

#19 Stefan Wood

In early September, Dragons coaching staff selected 20-year-old defenseman Stefan Wood as the captain for the 2016-17 season. Wood came to the Dragons over the summer from the Lloydminster Bobcats as part of the trade deal that included sending former Dragon Ryan Chynoweth to the Bobcats last season.

We caught up with Wood to find out more about the lighter side of the Jasper native.

DJ: What is your favourite flavour of ice cream?

SW: Strawberry.

DJ: If you could be any animal, what would you be and why?

SW: Grizzly bear because they are at the top of the food chain and are one of the meanest predators out there.

DJ: Which actor would play you in a movie about your life?

SW: George Clooney.

DJ: If you became stranded on an island, what three things would you want to bring with you?

SW: Sunscreen, water and dumbbells.

DJ: If you could have one superpower, what would it be?

SW: The ability to control time.

November Events

Fri, Nov 4	Game vs. Saints @ 7:30pm <i>Jeff Hendricks Memorial Scholarship Presentation</i>
Sat, Nov 5	Game vs. Mustangs @ 7:30pm <i>Dragons Parents' Night</i>
Fri, Nov 11	Remembrance Day
Fri, Nov 11	Game vs. Oil Barons @ 8:00pm
Sat, Nov 12	Game vs. Bobcats @ 7:30pm
Sun, Nov 13	Game vs. Pontiacs @ 2:00pm
Fri, Nov 18	Game vs. Kodiaks @ 7:30pm
Sat, Nov 19	Game vs. Grizzlys @ 7:30pm <i>RBC Game Night</i>
Sat, Nov 26	Game vs. Eagles @ 7:30pm
Tue, Nov 29	Game vs. Grizzlys @ 7:00pm

Home Game

Away Game

Stat Holiday

Ask the Dragons

You asked on social media, and they answered!



Spencer
@21src

@drumdragons What is Troy Dudley's favorite book/movie of all time and why did he enjoy it so much?

Troy: My favourite movie(s) are the Fast and the Furious movies because I like cars.



Sam B
@DidSamBSayThat

@drumdragons who is Brayden nicholetts favourite hockey player?

Brayden: Sidney Crosby!

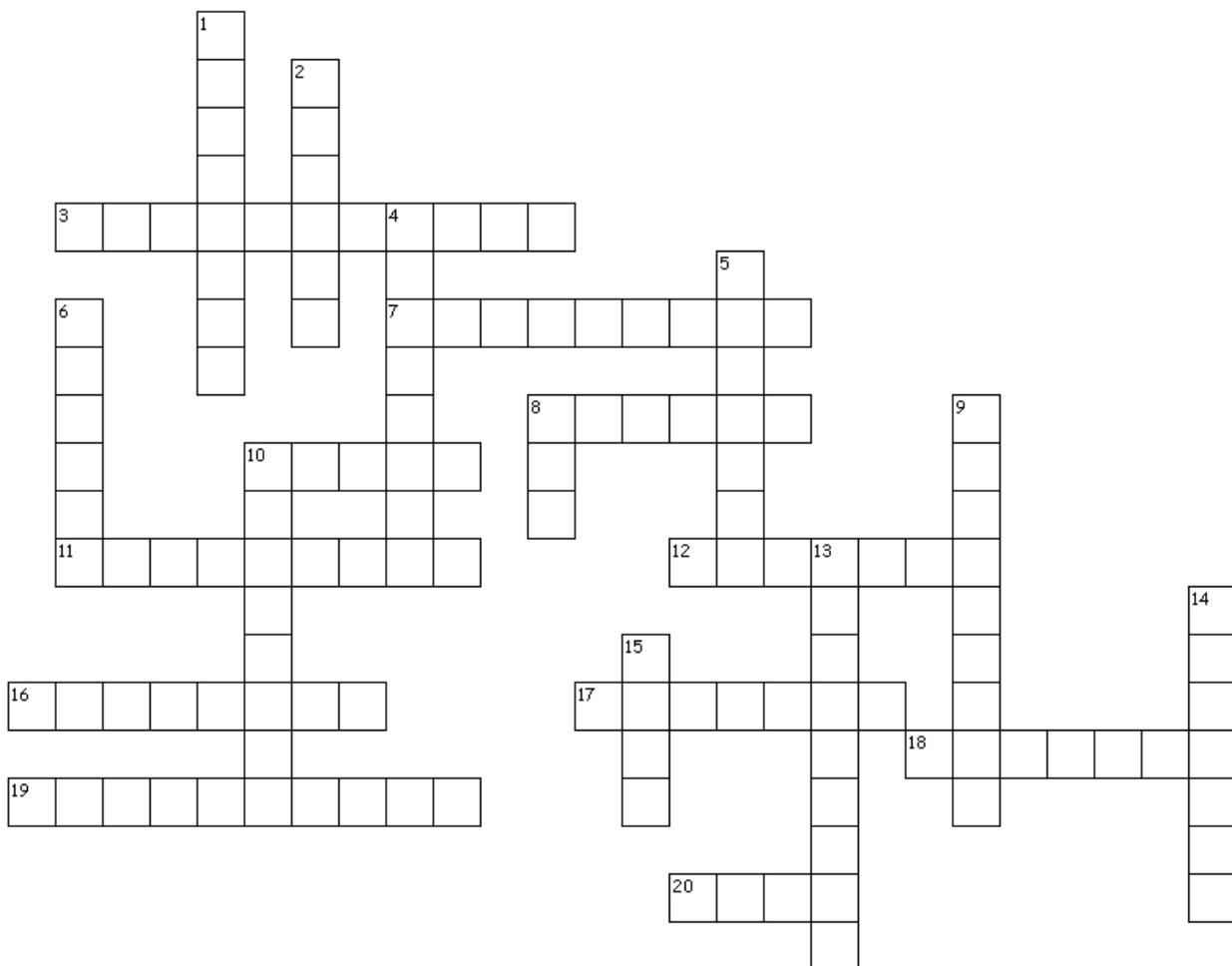


Tara Walker

Dragons: I have a (Today he's 8!) year old son who has just started hockey, he's a first year novice. Any advice you can give him?

Dragons: When doing any drill in practice, doing it wrong but going fast is still wrong. You first need to start off slow so you can master it. Any great hockey player was once a beginner.

Dragons Crossword Puzzle



Across

3. Came to the Dragons this year as part of a trade deal with the Brooks Bandits
7. The only American Dragon this season
8. Scored the shootout winner vs. the Thunder in the AJHL Showcase
10. Traded by the Kindersley Klippers of the SJHL to the Dragons early this season
11. "Gino" is his nickname
12. Dragons Player of the Month for September and Canalta Hotels AJHL Player of the Week for October 24-30
16. Soup
17. This defenseman must not be superstitious with that jersey number!
18. Has a scholarship to Colgate University of the NCAA for the 2017-18 season
19. Played high school hockey in Colorado last season
20. Wears the "C"

Down

1. Won the Most Improved Dragon award last season
2. Brothers from Claresholm, AB
4. One of two players to wear a white helmet
5. Tried out for the team as a walk-on in late September and made it
6. This returning player calls Medicine Hat home
8. Picked up his first win of the season on October 8th vs. the Mustangs
9. Dragons Player of the Month for October
10. This BC native currently has the most points out of all the Dragons defensemen
13. A former Affiliated Player with the Dragons
14. Has scored more goals than any other Dragons defenseman this season
15. His twin brother, Charlie, also tried out for the Dragons this year

(answers on next page)



Crossword Puzzle Answers

Across

3. Boguslavsky
7. Rochowiak
8. Dudley
10. Scott
11. Astrouski
12. Taupert
16. Campbell
17. Misskey
18. Tschumi
19. Nicholetts
20. Wood

Down

1. Kartusch
2. Keeley
4. Virostek
5. Fasegha
6. Dykema
8. Dow
9. Hurtubise
10. Stonnell
13. Patenaude
14. Kleiner
15. Risk

Player of the month

October 2016

#39 Chad Hurtubise

In the month of October, Hurtubise recorded 3 goals and 8 assists for a combined 11 points in 11 games. Congratulations, Chad, on being selected the Drumheller Dragons October Player of the Month!

Would you like the Dragons to attend your event, school, or function?

The Dragons love hanging out in the community and getting to know the people that support them! They have gone to the seniors lodges to have coffee and baked goodies with the residents, to the Pioneer Trail Society to play pool with the seniors, to Minor Hockey practices to help young players develop their skills, to the schools to help kids learn, etc. If you'd like the Dragons to come to your school, practice, lodge or event, contact Amanda at 403-823-2022.

The Dragons go pink

October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the Dragons decided this year to do their part to bring awareness to the disease and to raise money for a breast cancer cure.

On October 28th, the Dragons sported hot pink stick tape, skate laces and sock tape to support the cause as they hosted the Camrose Kodiaks.

The Dragons also sold pink t-shirts during the game, with all proceeds going to the Canadian Cancer Society. T-shirt sales alone raised over \$800 for breast cancer research, and there are still some available for purchase. Call Amanda at 403-823-2022 to get yours.



Drug-free Dragons

After rumours spread around the Drumheller Valley that members of his team were caught smoking marijuana last season, Dragons head coach and GM Brian Curran knew he needed a plan of action this year in order to keep his players clean and safe.

“From the get-go I told the players this year that there would be a zero-tolerance policy for drugs,” said Curran. “One strike and you’re out, no matter who you are.”

To hammer the point home, in late September Curran hired a rep from Alberta Health Services to perform drug testing on all the players over the age of 18. Each and every one of them passed with flying colours. Then Curran promised them that they would be drug tested again at least two more times this season.

“It’s so important for the health of our players that they aren’t smoking marijuana or doing any other drugs, even if it’s just once or twice” said Curran. “There is no room for that type of behaviour at this level of hockey, and unfortunately these kids are at the age where lots of their peers are doing drugs and they’re easily influenced. Last year the Dragons organization learned its lesson, and moving forward we will be much more diligent at keeping our players clean.”

Curran noted that since he revealed his new zero-

tolerance policy to the team back at combine camp in July, he’s had an outpouring of support from the parents of the players. “The parents just want to know that their kids will be taken care of and are part of a team that doesn’t tolerate drug use.”

Curran also noted that it probably wasn’t even necessary to do drug testing, because he knows his players have great character this year. However, he will continue with the testing as promised. “I am extremely proud of the group of players we have this year. They are all really good kids who really want to be here to work hard and play their hearts out,” he said. “None of them are worried about having to be drug tested because they all have great character and aren’t interested in drugs to begin with. That’s the kind of team I’ve wanted all along.”

With recreational marijuana and other drug use becoming such an issue with athletes in recent years, Curran encourages the rest of the teams in the AJHL to perform drug testing on their players as well. “I want to make the AJHL a safer league to play in,” he said. “The BCHL does drug testing, so why shouldn’t all the teams in the AJHL test their players as well?”

Curran also hopes the drug testing of his players will help to restore the team’s reputation in the community of being a world-class Junior A hockey organization that puts their players first.

Dragons acquire international player

The Prince Albert Raiders of the WHL have reassigned 1999-born forward Yauheni (pronounced Yev-GENN-ee) "Gino" Astrouski to the Drumheller Dragons for the 2016-17 AJHL season.

Astrouski is a 6'1" power forward who last season played for the SSAC Athletics out of Edmonton, tallying 11 goals and 18 assists in 34 games. Originally from Belarus, Astrouski and his family moved to Edmonton two years ago so he could play hockey as a 15 year old in Canada.

"There's no question he can play the game," said Dragons Head Coach and GM. "He's a strong skater with excellent hockey sense. From what I have seen so far there is a lot of talent to work with. We look forward to working with Yauheni over the next several months."

"Canadian hockey is very different than European hockey," said Astrouski to the Drumheller Mail. "It is much faster here and more physical. Because it's a more fast paced game you have to make faster decisions on the ice."

