

## **Introduction Team Yukon Male Hockey Team**

Hosting the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse has presented Team Yukon players with the opportunity of a lifetime – to play the best midget age hockey players in Canada in their “own backyard” – the land of the midnight sun. With a population of only 32,000, the pool of athletes to choose from is limited. The number of people living in the Yukon is comparable to the population of an average town in one of the provinces. Team Yukon realizes that the odds are stacked against them in this tournament but that has not stopped this determined group of young athletes from committing to be the best they can be in this national competition.

For all the players, this will be the highest level of hockey that they have ever encountered, and it will be an experience that they will cherish for years to come. Some players from Team Yukon will go on to play junior hockey, a few may play university hockey and who knows – one or two may even play pro – like Yukoner’s Jarred Dueling and Bobby House did in the 1990s.

Team Yukon is unique in that the players have played hockey in the Yukon all of their lives-- right from Tyke to Midget. They have developed a very special bond. Not only are they teammates but they are also close friends. This friendship does not end at the rink but extends to the many other activities that are available to them in the Yukon.

The Yukon is a **special** place – with majestic mountains, pure rivers and pristine lakes- and Team Yukon is a **special** team of young, enthusiastic, eager athletes that will rise to the challenge of competing with the best hockey players in Canada.

## **Selection Process**

In April 2004, Team Yukon selected its coaching staff and the first ID camp was held a year later. Fifty players attended. The second ID/ Evaluation camp was in April 2006 and 25 players were selected for a summer training squad.

This training squad participated in a summer hockey program that included practices, off ice training, participation in a league and attending a hockey school instructed by New York Islander Head Coach Ted Nolan and his assistant, Danny Flynn.

The third ID/Evaluation camp was held in September 2006 and a final 25 person training squad was selected. Players were evaluated over the next 5 months and in January 2007 the final team was selected.

Team Yukon goalies received four training sessions with Eli Wilson of World Pro Goaltending over the past two years. These sessions were held on weekends and many other Yukon goaltenders benefited as well.

Four players are currently playing on Midget AAA teams “down south”. In the meantime, the nucleus of Team Yukon remained in the Yukon and played with the Whitehorse Northern Cross Midget Mustangs. The Mustangs have participated in 3 tournaments and three exhibition series (a total of 25 games against Midget AAA teams). The team has logged about 10,000 miles in their hockey travels this year and have played teams from Alaska, California, Alberta, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories.

The majority of the players are from Whitehorse. However, Glenn Skookum (Carmacks), Evan Campbell, Owen MacKinnon ( Haines Junction) and Colin Dendys ( Watson Lake) are from small communities throughout the Yukon. Most of these players have played in Whitehorse over the years commuting 1.5 – 2 hours each way, 3 times a week to participate.

Team Yukon will feature excellent goaltending, have a strong commitment to good defensive hockey and will also feature some exciting offensive players.

## **Did you know?**

Mike Young and Joe Martin coached Team Yukon to the Gold ULU at the 2006 Arctic Winter Games.

Kevin Pike and Lowell Johnston represented the Yukon this year in a national soccer championship.

Kane Dawe and Tanner Kulych are cousins. Kane's brother Kaleb and his cousin Landon who is Tanner's brother, are participating in badminton at the games. Another cousin Braiden Kulych is participating in skiing.

Ted Stephens summer pastime is golf – he won the 2006 Yukon Golf Championship – junior division.

Drew Pettitt's teammate on the Cariboo Canucks, Ryan House, is a member of Team BC.

Glen Skookum who lives in Carmacks has been commuting to Whitehorse at least 3 times a week for the past 6 months to play on the Whitehorse Northern Cross Mustangs Midget team. This round trip is about 400 kilometers.

Mitch Heynen took up goaltending just three years ago.

Joe Densmore has grown 6" in the last 6 months.

Lawrence Brennan plays both for his high school Lakefield College and for the Peterborough Minor Midget AAA team.

Only three players - who currently are on the Whitehorse Northern Cross Mustangs - were too old to play for Team Yukon in the Canada Winter Games. Taylor Paslowski, Kaleb Dawe and Nic Mauro will be cheering their teammates on.

Alex McDougall works as a guide in the summer for his parents Canoeing and Kayaking business

Fraser Love and Nic Swizardyk are honor students in their French immersion high school program.

Owen MacKinnon has been keeping in shape through school – he is in an outdoor education program and has gone on numerous outdoor canoeing and ski trips this past year.

Manager Colin Dawe and coach Jim Stephens have coached most of Team Yukon players since Peewee.

## **Players to watch :**

### Ian Perrier

- Ian is an accomplished net minder with size and skill and a dedication.
- A number of junior teams are interested in Ian for next season.
- Plays for NEBC/Yukon Flyers in the Rural Alberta Midget League.

### Drew Pettitt

- Is an offensive forward with tremendous skating and puck handling skills.
- Quick, hard shooter.
- Plays for the Caribou Canucks in the BC Major Midget League.

### Ted Stephens

- Is an offensive centre who sees the ice well.
- Excellent puck handler and passer, great quarterback on the power play.
- Plays for the Whitehorse Mustangs and is the team's leader in points.

### Lowell Johnston

- Is a power forward with breakaway speed.
- Scores the big goals.
- Plays for the Whitehorse Mustangs and led the team in scoring in their last tournament.

### Kane Dawe

- Has tremendous speed.
- Great forechecker, and battles for loose pucks.
- Plays for the Whitehorse Mustangs and leads team in goal scoring.

### Robbie Stuckey

- Very hard accurate shooter.
- Great penalty killer.
- Plays for the Whitehorse Mustangs and is their top penalty killer.

### Alex McDougall

- Strong, physical defenseman.
- Good offensive skills.
- Plays for the Whitehorse Mustangs.

### Evan Campbell

- Good skater and puck handler.
- Sees the ice well.
- Plays of the NEBC/Yukon Flyers.

### Nic Swizdaryk

- excellent skater and very agile defenseman
- Plays for the Whitehorse Mustangs.

### **Meet the Staff**

Head Coach: Mike Young, Whitehorse, Yukon  
Assistant Coach: Joe Martin, Whitehorse, Yukon  
Assistant Coach: Jim Stephens, Whitehorse, Yukon  
Manager: Colin Dawe, Whitehorse, Yukon

### **Tale of the Tape**

Goalie	Average Height	5'11"
	Average Weight	170lbs
Defense	Average Height	5'11"
	Average Weight	184lbs
Forwards	Average Height	5'11"
	Average Weight	167lbs
Overall	Average Height	5'11"
	Average Weight	171lbs