

As seen in **The Suburban**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2010

Lac girls write new baseball chapter

By Mark Lidbetter
The Suburban

Over the years girls have taken part in the sport of baseball with the various associations that make-up the Lac St. Louis region and this year there were 200 plus playing in the different age categories but for the first time just last weekend talent from that pool was culled to form a peewee and bantam team that went to Gatineau to compete in the girls' provincial championships.

"Even though baseball feminine has been around for a few seasons we (LSL) never fielded a regional team," Eric Laferrière, assistant coach of the peewees and program coordinator said. "We felt this was the time to test the waters to see if we could attempt to bring a girls' league to the region and draw a regional teams from within that league."

The first foray into baseball at this level was a success from the fact that two teams entered the championships with the performance of the peewee squad being the icing on the cake.

The bantam team lost both their matches, first to Quebec and then to the Laurentides but coach George Smith notes the importance of participating to the region.

"The team was a talented and enthusiastic bunch who displayed grit and determination in the tournament, for



COURTESY OF LSL PEEWEES

Bottom (from left): Erica Ahad, Althea Lalonde, Jasmine Taciani, Evelyn Laferrière and Lauren Roberts. Top: Jackie Raftery (ass.-c.), Jessica Haddad, Stefanie Rak (head c.), Sandrine Bérubé, Karelle Parent, Eric Laferrière (LSL Girls Program Coordinator and ass.-c.), Mackenzie Bleho, Meghan Bloom, Vanessa Johnson, Toby Herscovitch (ass.-c.). Missing: Noémie Laverdière.

most of them, this was their first opportunity to compete at such a high level," George Smith said. "Everyone must keep in mind that this is the Lac St. Louis region's first foray into an all girl, provincial calibre event and as such, I

was extremely proud of the team's performance. In the short time we had been together the girls improved immensely. They listened attentively to the coaching staff and put into practice everything that they learned in the very short

time we were together. Unfortunately for us, our opponents in the provincial tournament were teams that have been playing together for many years. Every one of our girls have expressed an interest to return next year and, with a year under their belts and a full year of practice and playing time I am confident that they will continue to improve and be a force to be reckoned with in the future."

The peewees won their first two matches and were headed to the playoff round.

In their opening contest Lac St. Louis took a hitting marathon as they outlasted Quebec for a 21-18 victory. Game two saw the Lac pack take a 15-8 decision over Mauricie.

"This is a fabulous result for a girls program that was non-existent two months ago," Laferrière said. "The BQ (Baseball Quebec) people seem thrilled. This is our first step, with the hope of creating a bona fide girls league in the region; we'll see over the winter if the demand is there. One thing is sure the girls had a great time."

The peewees were set to face Laurentides in a game that would send the winner to the final and the loser to the bronze match but the skies opened and the day turned into a washout.

"The plan is to try and get the games in but even if they don't the girls have already accomplished more than we could have hoped for," he said. ■