



# Superior International Junior Hockey League

## SIJHL THIS WEEK



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# The 9th season of the SIJHL underway Thursday

**THUNDER BAY, Ont.** – The ninth season of the **Superior International Junior Hockey League** commences Thursday as the newly minted Fort Frances Lakers host the reigning Bill Salonen Cup champion Fort William North Stars at Ice for Kids Area. Game time is 7:30 p.m. CT.

### SIJHL Standings

Team	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Dryden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fort Frances	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Stars	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sioux Lookout	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wolverines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wisconsin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Note**—Wisconsin will play a 20-game schedule in the SIJHL this season.

### Games this week

Sept. 17: North Stars @ Fort Frances 7:30 p.m.  
 Sept. 18: Fort Frances @ Wolverines 7:30 p.m.  
 Sept. 18: North Stars @ Sioux Lookout 7:30 p.m.  
 Sept. 19: Fort Frances @ Wolverines 7:30 p.m.  
 Sept. 19: North Stars @ Sioux Lookout 7:30 p.m.

### Games next week

Sept. 22: Dyden @ Sioux Lookout 7:30 p.m.  
 Sept. 24: North Stars @ Wolverines 8 p.m.  
 Sept. 25: Sioux Lookout @ Wolverines 8 p.m.  
 Sept. 25: Dryden @ Fort Frances 7:30 p.m.  
 Sept. 26: Sioux Lookout @ Wolverines 7:30 p.m.

### Home Arenas

Dryden – Memorial Arena  
 Fort Frances – Ice for Kids Arena  
 North Stars – Fort William Gardens  
 Sioux Lookout – Sioux Lookout Arena  
 K&A Wolverines – Thunder Bay Tournament Centre  
 Wisconsin Mustangs – Northwest Sports Complex

### CJHL preseason rankings

RK	Team	League
1	Vernon Vipers	BCHL
2	Humboldt Broncos	SJHL
3	Grand Prairie Storm	AJHL
4	Spruce Grove Saints	AJHL
5	Winnipeg Saints	MJHL
6	Pembroke Lumber Kings	CJHL
7	Salmon Arm Silverbacks	BCHL
8	Kingston Voyageurs	OJHL
9	Couchiching Terriers	OJHL
10	Brooks Bandits	OJHL
11	Georgetown Raiders	OJHL
12	Truro Bearcats	MJAHL
13	North Bay Trapper	NOJHL
14	<b>Fort William North Stars</b>	<b>SIJHL</b>
15	Sherbrooke-C.C. Cougars	LHJAAA

A total of five full-time clubs will each play a 52-game schedule while the Wisconsin Mustangs will compete in 20 contests, four matches apiece vs. the other five teams.

Four other games are also on tap this week along with the season opener.

After welcoming the North Stars on Thursday, Fort Frances travels to Thunder Bay for a two-game weekend set against the K&A Wolverines who begin their first campaign in the SIJHL following a successful run in the local Jr. B/Juvenile/AAA Hockey League.

Wrapping up the first week of play will see the North Stars heading to Sioux Lookout for a pair Friday and Saturday vs. the hometown Flyers.

### TEAM CAPSULES



**DRYDEN ICE DOGS:** An original member of the SIJHL, the Ice Dogs has their first game of the season on Sept. 22 when they visit Sioux Lookout. The club's home opener is set for Oct. 2 when they welcome Fort William to Memorial Arena.

Dryden welcomes a new head coach this season in Clint Mylymok who begins his first campaign at the helm.

In preseason play the Dogs posted a 2-2 overall record including a well-earned split with the 2010 Royal Bank Cup host Dauphin Kings.

The Ice Dogs are two-time winners of the Bill Salonen Cup as league champions.



**FORT FRANCES LAKERS:** A late off-season ownership change saw a local group band together to take over the operations of the Jr. Sabres organization.

Running as a non-profit, community owned franchise the group decided on calling themselves the Lakers. The design of a new team logo is just one of many plans the club has in the works in the coming weeks.

Coach and general manager Wayne Strachan remains with the organization giving Fort Frances a solid presence behind the bench. Forward Colton Kennedy returns to provide much-needed leadership for the new-look squad.

The Lakers will enter the 2009-10 campaign on a high note winning their final exhibition game, a hard-fought 4-3 decision in overtime in which a Kennedy blast helped defeat the visiting K&A Wolverines on Sept. 12.



**FORT WILLIAM NORTH STARS:** Ranked 14th in the season opening Canadian Jr. Hockey League national rankings the North Stars begin defense of their SIJHL crown they captured a year ago starting Thursday in Fort Frances.

Once again leading Fort William is Todd Howarth, who has guided his club to the league finals six straight years, winning four of them. He also has recorded more victories than any other coach in SIJHL history.

The club had three preseason games in Manitoba as a prelude to the year, but lost all of them. They dropped their opener to the Winnipeg South Blues 6-2 before suffering 4-1 and 1-0 setbacks to the two-time reigning Manitoba Jr. Hockey League champion Portage Terriers.

Among those expected to lead the Stars are forwards Jordan Davis and Mitch Forbes while recently acquired netminder Guillaume Piche should see the bulk of the duty in goal.



**SIoux LOOKOUT FLYERS:** Entering their second season the Flyers solidified themselves after becoming locally owned midway through last year.

Randy Lulashnyk begins his first full season at the controls of Sioux Lookout as its head coach. He led Dryden to a SIJHL title in 2008.

It was a solid preseason for the Flyers who posted a 3-1 record taking two wins over Fort Frances while splitting a pair with Dryden.

The team will have a hectic start to the campaign seeing action in five of the first 10 games of league play.

Besides hosting the North Stars for two this weekend they will also welcome Dryden on Sept. 22 before heading to Thunder Bay for two contests against the Wolverines Sept. 25-26 at the Tournament Centre.



**K&A WOLVERINES:** The Wolverines make the jump to the SIJHL this season after dominating the Thunder Bay Jr. B/Juvenile/AAA Hockey League the past number of years.

Guiding the K&A fortunes will be head coach Steve Dumonski who led the club to a Jr. B title as well as all the way to the final game of the Western Canadian Jr. B championships this past April.

The Wolverines only saw action in one preseason contest falling 4-3 in overtime in Fort Frances on Saturday.

Forward Nathan Spina is one of those who will be looked upon to provide offence for the club this season.

K&A makes their SIJHL debut Friday when they host Fort Frances at the Thunder Bay Tournament Centre.



**WISCONSIN MUSTANGS:** A partial member of the SIJHL this season the Spooner, Wis., based Mustangs will play a total of 20 games in the league this year.

They will go up against each of the other five clubs four times apiece with two of those games against each side being played at the Northwest Sports Complex in Spooner.

Their first SIJHL action will be Sept. 30 when they welcome Fort Frances to the NWSC. Their first visit to Canadian soil will be Nov. 24 when they meet the Lakers at Ice for Kids Arena.

The club is also a full-time member of the Minnesota Jr. Hockey League. They are coached by Don Roberts, who also serves as the Mustangs general manager.

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