



**Kam River Fighting Walleye**

**Junior A Hockey Club**

# Kam River Fighting Walleye

The Kam River Fighting Walleye are members of the SIJHL, a "tier 2" Junior A hockey league, that is part of the CJHL. The Fighting Walleye are based in Oliver Paipoonge, Ontario, a community of 6,000 people, that is located approximately 15 minutes West of the city of Thunder Bay. Players who play for the Fighting Walleye experience the best of both worlds, with passionate and dedicated support from the small-town fan base, along with all the big-city amenities that are located close by. We play out of NorWest Arena, which includes our brand-new dressing room facility and exercise/weight room.



# Dressing Room

The Kam River Fighting Walleye dressing room includes individual stalls for players, a 65" TV, shower area, ping-pong table, massage/athletic therapist table, fully stocked sports drink refrigerator and other amenities. The team features a full-time equipment manager and trainer that works tirelessly to provide a professional-level experience for the players.



## Location/Accessibility

Oliver Paipooonge/Thunder Bay is located 45 minutes from the Canada-U.S. border, connected to the state of Minnesota via Highway 61. The Thunder Bay International Airport features direct flights from all over North America, making it easily accessible for players and their family members.



# Advancement/Development

The Kam River Fighting Walleye are committed to providing the resources, guidance and opportunity for it's players to develop to their full potential and advance to the next level. Every single one of our 20-year old players have received multiple offers from schools at the NCAA, ACHA and USports levels. In 3 seasons, all players who wished to move on and play college/university hockey, have been provided the opportunity to do so. Simply put, the organization's 60-plus employees and volunteers pour their heart and soul into the club so that players have these opportunities, along with a high-level junior hockey experience.



# Community

The Kam River Fighting Walleye believe that developing a close relationship with the community is integral for the success of the club, and the growth and development of the players. This close relationship has resulted in a large and passionate fan base, with the 950-seat NorWest Arena routinely being sold out for regular season games. Every player will have the opportunity to engage with the fan base on a regular basis by visiting schools, volunteering at community events, and other team initiatives. Community is everything to us.



# Billeting

The Kam River Fighting Walleye have dedicated families from Oliver Paipoonge and Thunder Bay that open their homes to our non-local players during the hockey season. Our billets are quality family-oriented people that want to help young hockey players in the pursuit of their goals. The Fighting Walleye have an amazing billet co-ordinator that maintains close communication between our billets, players and players' families to ensure a positive experience for all.



## Coaching

Larry Wintoneak is a veteran head coach with over 30 years of high level coaching experience in the Junior A and Minor Pro ranks. After helping guide the professional Thunder Bay Thunder Hawks and junior Thunder Bay Flyers to championships, Larry had successful stints as the head coach in Dryden, Flin Flon, La Ronge, and Kindersley. He coached Team West in the Junior A challenge series in 2010 and 2011, helping lead his team to a silver medal. Wintoneak stresses a hard-working, committed, team-first culture and works tirelessly to develop young men into better players and better people.

As a player, Wintoneak won two Allan Cup National Senior Championships with the Thunder Bay Twins, in 1988 and 1989.



# Achievements/Alumni

In just 3 full seasons in the SIJHL, the Fighting Walleye have achieved significant success on the ice, including:

- 2021-22 SIJHL Regular Season Championship
- 2022-23 SIJHL Regular Season Championship
- 2022-23 Bill Salonen Cup as SIJHL Playoff Champions
- 2023-24 SIJHL Regular Season Championship

Players that we have helped moved up to the next level include:

- Ethan Lang ('02) - Dubuque University
- Jack Cook ('03) - Lakehead University
- Ryan Doucette ('03) - Indiana Tech University
- Jeremy Dunmore ('03) - Indiana Tech University
- Austin Madge ('01) - University of Oregon
- Zach Fortin ('01) - Lakehead University
- Noah Kramps ('02) - Calvin University
- Alex Enegren ('01) - University of Oregon
- Dayton Clarke ('01) - University of Oregon
- Brydon Bell ('03) - Portage College
- Anthony Oviedo ('02) - University of Toledo
- Josh Morton ('02) - Briercrest College
- Logan Gallaher ('02) - Maryville University
- Josh Pufahl ('02) - Vancouver Island University
- Hunter Halcrow ('00) - University of Toledo
- Jace Pitawanakwat ('00) - Sault College



# Hockey Staff

**General Manager/Dir. of Player Personnel - Kevin McCallum**

**Assistant GM/Dir. of Scouting - Bryan Smeltzer**

**Head Coach - Larry Wintoneak**

**Assistant Coach/Hockey Ops Assistant - Kurtis McCallum**

**Senior Hockey Operations Advisor - Vern Ray**

**Goaltending Coach - Ryan Currie**

**Assistant Coach - Dylan Butler**

**Equipment Manager/Trainer - Taylor Metzger**

**Skills Coach/Assistant Coach - Chad Clower**

**Athletic Therapist - Elora Ray**

**President - Derek Geddes**

**VP of Business/Governor - Colin Campbell**

**Co-Owner - Al Macsemchuk**

**Sales/Marketing Co-ordinator - Cody Swalwell**

**Promotions Manager - Brianna Bernst**

**Director of Eastern Canada Scouting - Seth Silver**

**Director of Minnesota Scouting - Steven Holappa**

**Regional Scouts: Darryl Everett - Ottawa, Kyle Lamoureux -**

**Manitoba, Chris Burns - Texas and SE USA, Dustin Ernest -**

**Saskatchewan, James Brewer - Edmonton, Alex Enegren - NW USA,**

**Patrick Lacelle - Quebec, Logan McDonnell - S. Ontario, Trevor**

**Iserhoff - NWO and First Nations, Tyler Hagl - Minnesota, Terry Ott -**

**Colorado, Kobe Braham - Saskatchewan**

