

Perry Pearn's 3 vs. 3 Hockey Camps Inc.
4 Orleans Court, St. Albert, Alberta T8N 6V9
phone 780 458 5749
fax 780 459 8656 www.perrypearns.com



The following article was written by Perry Pearn and was printed in *Hockey Now*.

Perry Pearn's 3 vs. 3 Camps had very simple beginnings which grew out of a desire to provide two things: First, a fundraising option for the NAIT Ooks Hockey Program to enhance exhibition travel; Secondly, to provide 'elite' hockey players who were playing beyond the Bantam AAA level the kind of experience that would provide skill development, but even more importantly, a conditioning element that would prepare players for Junior camps. It had to be a 'unique' camp that separated it from the normal hockey school format. The 3 vs. 3 concept, combined with high tempo practices and conditioning format became that 'specialized' platform for Perry Pearn's 3 vs. 3.

The inaugural camp, featuring one group, began in July of 1991 at the NAIT Arena. That first group included some very good players who would eventually find themselves playing in the NHL. Geoff Sanderson, Sheldon Souray, Jason Holland and Nolan Pratt were all part of year one. Over the first five years of the camp a group of players participated who would play a key role in the evolution of the 3 vs. 3 concept. In the first five years of the camp 17 players (including the four originals mentioned above) participated who would go on to play in the NHL. That list included Jarome Iginla, Hnat Domenichelli, Tyson Nash, Colin Forbes, Tyler Bouck, Pavel Trnka, Jason Strudwick, Paul Comrie, Mike Comrie, Jonathan Aitken, Petr Sykora, Ladi Kohn and Josef Marha. This group of 17 players became the core of what would eventually become our Pro Group--the 'flagship' group of the 3 vs. 3 camp.

During the first four years of the camp it operated with one group each summer but as the popularity of the camp grew, an expansion to four groups was made while still working out of the NAIT Arena. Using Zane Jakubec's administration, organizational and promotional skills off the ice and Perry Pearn's on ice coaching skill a strong partnership had formed and the 3 vs. 3 concept had taken off, no longer a fund raiser but a business! The business part of the 3 vs. 3 would eventually lead to a conflict with NAIT and the availability of ice at the NAIT Arena. This too worked in favor of the camp as a move to the Knights of Columbus Twin Arenas was made. The move brought a great new relationship with Orest Korbitt, President of the K of C Minor Hockey and the Knights of Columbus organization. They remain a tremendous ally and supporter of the camps to this day! The 3 vs. 3 camp has benefited greatly from this valued partnership with the K of C.

The move to Knights of Columbus Twin Arenas allowed the camp to expand to the present day format of eight groups encompassing Atoms to the 'Pro' Prep group which

includes Major Junior and top level College players. Most importantly though is the fact K of C has been the home of the 'Pro' Group since its inception.

Over the 21 years of the camp's existence its popularity spawned expansion to several other centers including Calgary, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Regina and Fort St. John, BC. Interestingly enough those camps also included a number of future NHLers. Taylor Hall attended the Calgary camp as a Bantam/Midget and Edmonton Oilers linemate Jordan Eberle participated in the Regina camp at the same age. Taylor has returned this past two years as an Edmonton Oiler in the Pro camp. The Lethbridge camp featured Devon Setoguchi, Kris Versteeg, Robb Klinkhammer and Byron Ritchie; Medicine Hat attendee Zack Smith plays for the Senators; Red Deer saw a number of NHLers participate including Arron Asham, Trent Hunter, Jay Rosehill, Jim Vandermeer and Kris Russell; and finally Tanner Glass, Boyd Gordon, Brooks Laich, Garth Murray and Jordan Eberle were part of the Regina camp in the 21 year history of the Perry Pearn 3 vs. 3 Camps. Over 200 players who played in the NHL participated at one time or another in the camp. Some players such as Calgary Flame Jay Bouwmeester have attended the camp right through minor hockey and throughout their Pro career.

With the World Junior Championship being a big part of the hockey scene at this time of year, it is interesting to note that 3 vs. 3 has been well represented over the years on Team Canada. Since 1996 at least 18 3 vs. 3 participants have worn the maple leaf. This group includes some Olympians as well most notably Jay Bouwmeester and Jarome Iginla. This year's National Junior Team includes Mark McNeill from the Edmonton and JC Lipon from the Regina camp. Over the years, 3 vs. 3 has had an international draw from a participant standpoint as well with players attending from Switzerland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Russia and the United States.

One of the great strengths of the camp over the years has been the quality of coaches who have provided their on ice expertise to the camp. This group includes NHL, Major Junior, College and top Minor Hockey coaches. Ric Carriere now in charge of Player Development for the Edmonton Oilers is a longtime 3 vs. 3 coach, including running the Red Deer camp while head coach of the Western Hockey League Red Deer Rebels. Rob Daum, former University of Alberta coach now coaching in Austria; Serge Lajoie, Head Coach of the NAIT Ooks; Steve Hamilton and Derek Laxdal of the Edmonton Oil Kings; top Minor Hockey coaches Daryl Weinberger, Dan Bouwmeester and Jay Henderson (former participant) and Tim Fragle, GM/Head Coach of the Sherwood Park Crusaders are some of the great coaches who have helped set the coaching bar very high for 3 vs. 3 players.

As Perry Pearn's 3 vs. 3 Camp heads into its 22nd year, the history and tradition of participating will continue to grow.

