



ENDEAVOUR
sports group

December 17, 2009

Mr. Mike Depratto
President
ODMHA

Mr. Depratto,

Research in human nature suggests that we are often scared of change, especially after any extended period of status quo. It seems that we tend to be uneasy about what it is we sometimes do not fully understand, hence our hesitation to fully adopt an idea, or an unwillingness to accept opportunity presented before us. It is my sincere hope that the OEMHL AAA Pilot Project does not simply become that. A missed opportunity to make a positive long-term commitment to aspiring players in the region.

My experience in the game has granted me the opportunity to see first-hand different versions of the AAA model, from ten plus years coaching in the United States, including U18 AAA and Junior "A" experience; and recruiting from models which vary from state to state, and as well on a National level. Similarly, from the Southern part of this great Province to other provincial models stretching from coast-to-coast – one thing seems certain. You will never get everyone to agree on what is the perfect model – if indeed there exists as much. Such is the case that the ODMHA faces in the very near future.

I have been fortunate enough to have had a very close relationship with those involved with the league, especially with League President Jim Powell. What I have been privy to observe is a selfless cast of individuals – operating under often difficult situations – yet able to achieve incredible steps together, all while keeping their number one priority constant. The players. That fact has never been lost by any member of that executive.

I have spoken at length, expressing the changes and/or adjustments I think would have a positive influence on the players, coaches, administrators, and club development... All with individuals such as Mr. Powell, Minor Hockey Association Presidents, parents, and even the players - as my company sees me work with them on a daily level (be that players that have graduated from the league, or still participate within it). In the end, it is solely an opinion, but let me state this. I honestly believe that hockey in this region is MUCH better off with the OEMHL AAA loop in it, than without. It is my belief that it provides an integral step in the ongoing development of not only the players, but aspiring coaches in the region. After fifteen years in elite player recruitment, development, and promotion, I sincerely hope that the Pilot Project becomes a reality for numerous reasons – be that the countless hours of work put into the Project by the volunteers, the commitment of the players dedicated to the pursuit of their goals, the financial sacrifice of everyone associated with the AAA project... The list is endless.

In the end, I believe that it should continue because it affords an opportunity for our region's youth to compete at a level deserving of their skill, time, and effort.

Sincerely,

Michael Pilon
President
Endeavour Sports Group