



**COLD LAKE AEROS
JUNIOR A HOCKEY CLUB**

A PROUD MEMBER OF THE

CAJHL
CANADIAN-AMERICAN JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE

ABOUT THE AEROS

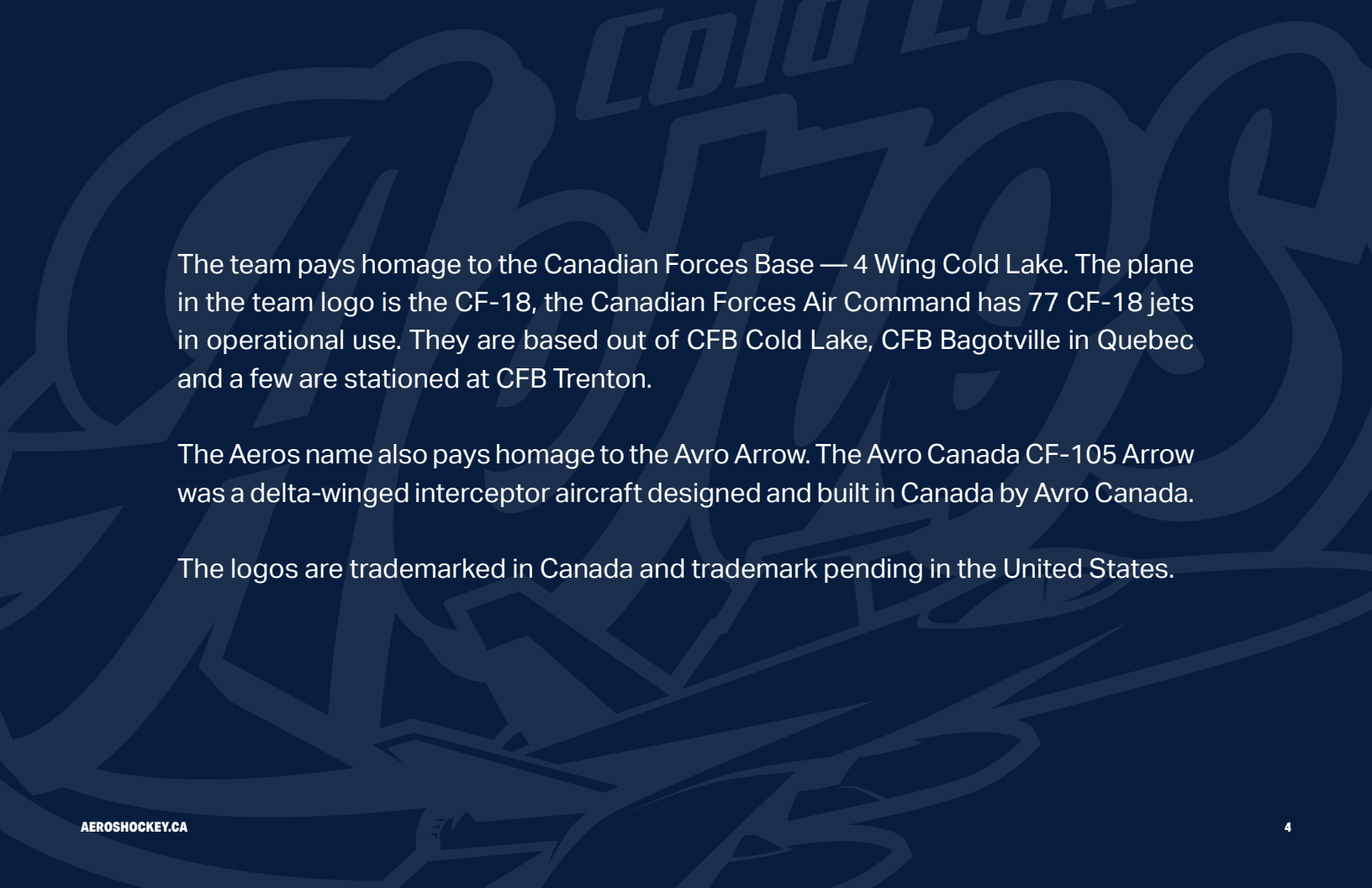
The Aeros are in their fifth year of operation. As a founding member of the Canadian-American Junior Hockey League, the CAJHL provides an alternative to other Junior A Hockey programs. Teams have players from Canada, the United States, Europe and Asia. The CAJHL is independently sanctioned and therefore is not bound by the same roster limits as other junior hockey leagues. With a constantly improving quality of play, CAJHL players have been receiving offers from NCAA Division I, NCAA Division III, ACHA Division 1, the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union and the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association.

This program is designed for players who want to continue playing at a high-level while seeking educational opportunities and other hockey options. At the Aeros organization, we believe education, community involvement and hockey are fundamental to building a strong program. Welcoming local and international players, the team is made up of a diverse group of people coming from Cold Lake, across Canada and around the world.



The Cold Lake Aeros are an excellent option for players who are capable of continuing to play at the Junior A level. Excelling since the beginning, the Aeros finished third in the 2018-19 season, finished first overall in the 2019-20 WSHL season and won the inaugural CAJHL Champions Cup 2021-22.





The team pays homage to the Canadian Forces Base — 4 Wing Cold Lake. The plane in the team logo is the CF-18, the Canadian Forces Air Command has 77 CF-18 jets in operational use. They are based out of CFB Cold Lake, CFB Bagotville in Quebec and a few are stationed at CFB Trenton.

The Aeros name also pays homage to the Avro Arrow. The Avro Canada CF-105 Arrow was a delta-winged interceptor aircraft designed and built in Canada by Avro Canada.

The logos are trademarked in Canada and trademark pending in the United States.

HEAD COACH

Ryan Gruszka

Ryan holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration as well as a Master's Degree in Education with an emphasis on Sports Leadership. He is an experienced hockey coach with a strong background in coaching in NCAA and Junior A hockey.

Most recently, Ryan held the position of Head Coach of the ACHA Division Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan as well as the Assistant Coach of the NCAA program. In his positions at Finlandia, Gruszka oversaw all recruitment activities, traveling to various showcases, video analysis, and breakdowns as well as planning all on-ice activities.

Ryan has also held the position of the U18 Head Coach in New Zealand with the Dunedin Thunder Youth Hockey Association. He also holds his Level 2 USA Hockey Coaching Certification.

A two time ACHA Hockey All American and a member of the Athletic Hall of Fame from East Texas Baptiste University in Marshall, Texas, Gruszka has also played at the Junior hockey level in Ontario, Canada and the United States.

ASSISTANT COACH/ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Peter Axmann

Peter has been the team's Assistant Coach and Assistant General Manager since the teams inception. Having played as a goaltender in his minor hockey career and beyond, Peter assists with the coaching of goalies and defence, player recruitment and managing of the team.



A UNIQUE PLACE TO **LIVE** AND **PLAY**

The team resides in Cold Lake, a tight-knit community in the heart of the Lakeland area of NE Alberta. Conveniently located three hours north-east of Alberta's capital city of Edmonton, players benefit from a major metropolis and international airport. Cold Lake offers beautiful scenery, with many lakes, and rugged outdoor adventure.

With just over 15,000 residents, Cold lake is a city invested in the vibrancy of their recreational and cultural programming and is focused on celebrating all things local. With great community support at home games regularly see between 400 and 500 fans in attendance.





A *PROUD* PART *OF THE* COMMUNITY

The Cold Lake Aeros are an integral part of the community, not only in creating town pride as an internationally recognized team, but also through direct community involvement. Players are local sports heroes and are expected to serve as role models, representing the team in a good light at all times.

As part of the team's community outreach, players visit schools during Read-in Week and read stories to elementary students. The team fundraises for the Royal Canadian Legion, Breast Cancer Society and the Humane Society. The Aeros also host several fun community events throughout the year, such as a Halloween event in which kids and players team up to carve pumpkins, the Aeros 4 on 4 spring hockey program and the Aeros summer hockey camp.

EXCELLENCE ***NOW AND FOR THE*** ***FUTURE***

The Aeros organization is passionate about developing young hockey players and places the developmental and educational needs of its players first. Team leaders are committed to creating a learning environment that will provide a positive junior hockey experience while best positioning players to continue their hockey careers.

Players still in high school can choose to continue their education with their current school system through distance learning or enrol in local schools include the Cold Lake High School and Portage College which are both attached to the Cold Lake Energy Centre. Also the Assumption Junior/Senior Catholic School. While there is no minimum grade average required to maintain team status, students are supported in their learning, and participation levels are adjusted accordingly so they can focus more on their studies if grades start to slip.





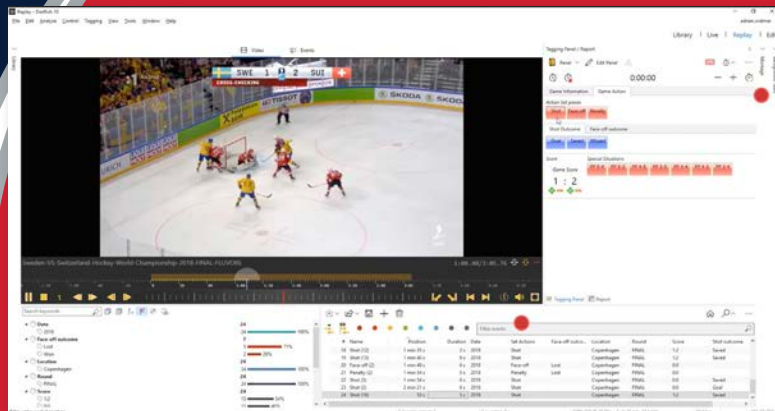
PRACTICE ***MAKES PERFECT***

Players have a full schedule of games, practices and community commitments. In addition to games, the team has three to four, 75-minute practices per week, with some mandatory off-ice sessions during the evenings. A gym membership is included as well as special fitness sessions.

The team plays out of the Imperial Oil Arena, an 1800 seat, 3200 person capacity state of the art arena. The arena is conveniently located in the heart of Cold Lake and is part of the facility known as the Cold Lake Energy Centre which houses a world class fitness facility, field house, climbing wall, high school and college.

PRO-STAR TRAINING FOR ALL-STAR RESULTS

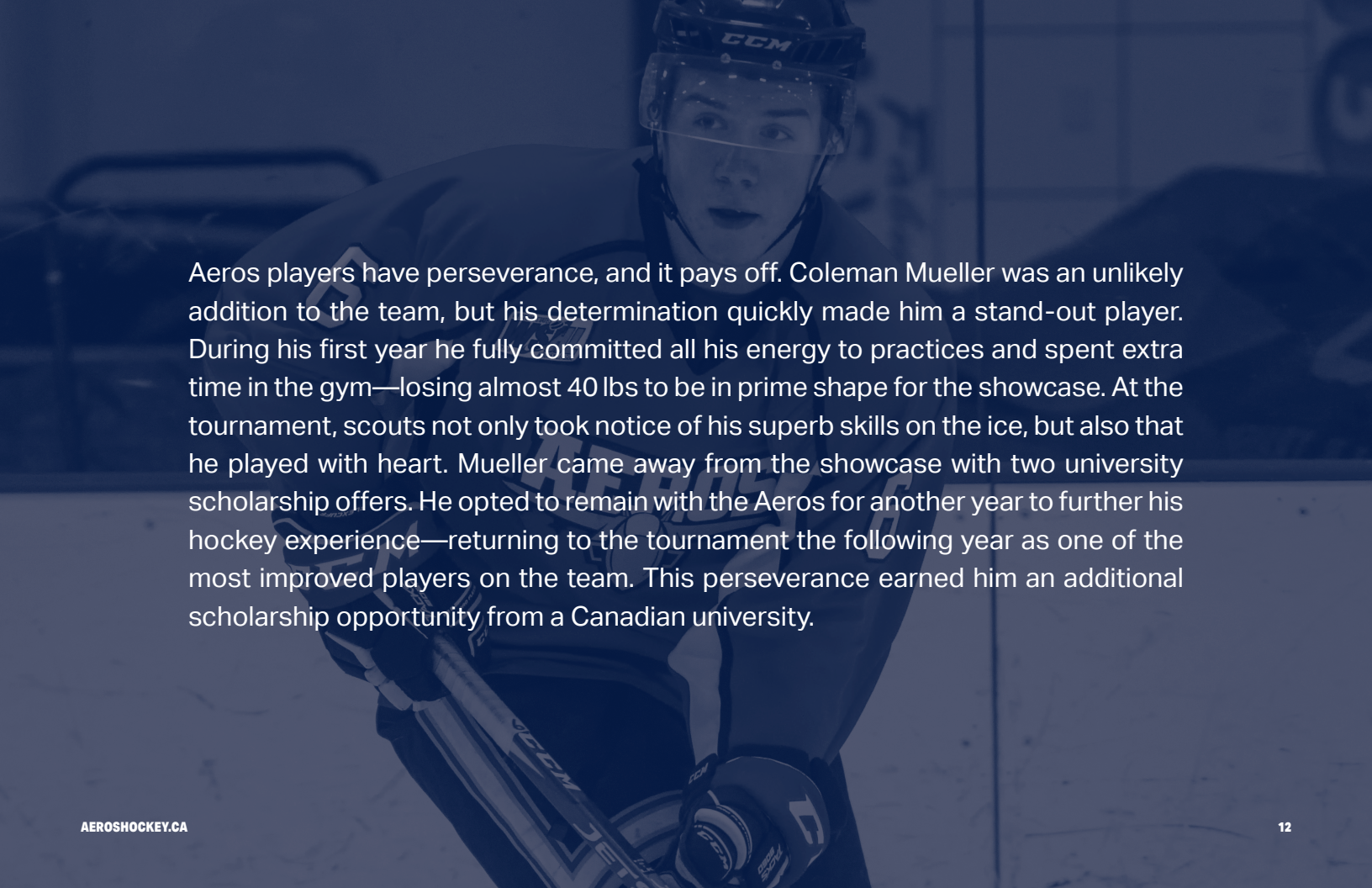
Aeros coaches use the Dartfish high performance video and analysis tool to develop a more effective game strategy with data, statistics and automated reports. With this powerful tool, coaches can deliver a match review in minutes, quickly locate areas of weaknesses, illustrate exactly what athletes need to improve, and create interactive reports to share with players.





OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

One of the benefits of the Aeros is playing in the CAJHL Showcase. Every year, the entire team competes in a four day round robin tournament. The showcase hosted by the CAJHL allows each player an opportunity to display their individual talents and abilities. The tournament is well attended by college and university scouts as well as major junior, European and minor pro scouts. Past Aeros players have been offered multiple scholarship opportunities.



Aeros players have perseverance, and it pays off. Coleman Mueller was an unlikely addition to the team, but his determination quickly made him a stand-out player. During his first year he fully committed all his energy to practices and spent extra time in the gym—losing almost 40 lbs to be in prime shape for the showcase. At the tournament, scouts not only took notice of his superb skills on the ice, but also that he played with heart. Mueller came away from the showcase with two university scholarship offers. He opted to remain with the Aeros for another year to further his hockey experience—returning to the tournament the following year as one of the most improved players on the team. This perseverance earned him an additional scholarship opportunity from a Canadian university.

GET IN ON THE ACTION

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WITH HOCKEYTV.COM***

HockeyTV is the world's biggest platform of live and on-demand broadcasts for ice hockey national governing bodies, leagues, teams, and events.




WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Players joining the team from afar will be living away from home—some for the first time. Cold Lake Aeros billet families create a wholesome home away from home where players are treated like members of the family. Many of our billet families have hosted multiple times and often build lasting relationships with players.

The billet family provides balanced meals and a private bedroom. Hosts ensure players are at the arena for all practices and games and coordinate transportation as needed. They also help keep players on track, enforcing the rules and curfew set by the coach, and make sure the player is staying on top of any high school or post-secondary commitments.



A family of five is seen from behind, sitting on a wooden dock. They are looking out at a calm body of water under a twilight sky. The family consists of two adults and three children. The water reflects the light from the sky, and a line of trees is visible on the far shore.

We began our journey four seasons ago. We've had 12 wonderful young men come through our home. We've had players from all over Canada, US, Belarus, and Taiwan. We've had players get scholarships through the program, and another play in the IIHF. It's the most amazing experience. The boys (and their families) become a part of your family. It fills a void in our home and in our hearts for 8 months, a feeling that we can't explain. They truly become family that even when the season is over, you remain in close contact. It's been fun watching our boys, past and present, grow into such amazing young adults. This experience has been by far our favourite, and from the first day and the first player to walk through our door, we are forever grateful we decided to billet.

Desarae and Alexandre Gelinas, Billet Family

GETTING TO THE GAME

The Aeros travel throughout Alberta. The team rides together in style in their private Cold Lake Aeros motorcoach. Complete with plush seats, a bathroom and entertainment system, the team arrives at away games well rested and ready to win. When travelling for games, all accommodations and meals are provided.





DRESSED FOR SUCCESS

Players are provided with league supplemental insurance, a gym membership at Cold Lake Energy Centre and the following equipment in the team colours:

- Helmet
- Gloves
- Pant shells
- Game jerseys (home/away)
- Game socks (home/away)
- Practice jersey and socks
- Sock/stick tape
- Hockey bag
- Aeros swag (hoodie, joggers, golf shirt, and toque, winter jacket, and work out gear)

Players may keep the supplied equipment. Skates, pants, additional sticks and neck guards are not supplied.

JOIN THE AEROS

Apply to become a member of the team
Visit aeroshockey.ca/tryouts



ALUMNI

The Aeros have a solid track record of creating a strong foundation for continued success. Notable alumni who have taken their careers to the next level include:

NIKLAS FRODEN

FoC Farsta, Swedish Division 3 | Professional

Emil Johansson

Örnköldsvik HF, Swedish Hockey Ettan | Professional

KEVIN LUNDIN

Flemingsbergs IK, Sweden | Professional

SEBBE HEDIN

Flemingsbergs IK, Sweden | Professional

AXEL SODERGREN

Flemingsbergs IK, Sweden | Professional

QUENTIN STEMPEL

Maryville University | ACHA

VOJTECH SVOBODA

HC Draci Bilina, Czech Republic | Professional

PHILIP BJORKMAN

Nichols College | NCAA III

LEON KOPPITZ

ERSC Amberg Germany | Professional

SAMUAL POLLOCK

Vancouver Island University

LIAM AUSTIN

Calvin University | ACHA

RILEY AUSTIN

Calvin University | ACHA Division 1

GREG SMITH

Calvin University | ACHA Division 1

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MARK BOURGEOIS

Equipment Manager



CONNECT **WITH THE AEROS**

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