

## BANTAM 2 PLAYOFF PREVIEW

The AAA Bantam 2 playoff schedule has been set with a City Championship shining brightly at the end of this season-long journey. Which team is going to collectively battle and earn the right to be called a Champion?

### Winnipeg Monarchs:

There is a certain confidence, a swagger almost, in the confines of the Winnipeg Monarchs dressing room, but can we really blame them? After all, with a staggering record of 23-4-1-0, this first-place squad has been flirting with perfection since the Holiday break and will march into the 2008 post-season riding a nine game winning-streak. Up front, the Monarchs will rely heavily on their top trio of Partick D'Amico, Daniel Asham and Jack Rodewald, who have combined for 103 points, including 52 goals in just 28 games. On the back end, All-Star MVP and league leader in all net-minding categories, Christopher Driedger and Brandon Taylor will backstop the leagues stingiest defense. Statistically speaking, the Monarchs will be heavily-favored heading into the post-season, but despite his wealth of offensive and defensive weaponry, Coach Blashko still feels that there is always room for improvement. "We need to show up on consistent basis, and give a full sixty-minute effort. Hockey is played in three periods, and the team that shows up for all three will usually come out on top"



*Goaltending will be key for all of our teams as they push forward in the playoffs*

### Winnipeg Warriors:

Until proven otherwise, the Winnipeg Warriors are the Champions, and perhaps the team to beat. It may not have been a decorated season filled with statistical accolades, but all eyes will be on the David-like Warriors when they begin their title defense and hope to play spoiler to the Goliath-like Monarchs. The Warriors' 9-16-0-4 record is not at all indicative of their talent or efforts on the ice, however, the players will have to adhere to Coach Fehr's game plan if they wish to shut down the opposition's high-octane offense.

Up front, the Warriors will rely heavily on set-up man Yannick Tetrault (who is tied for the league lead in assists with 20), to feed his trigger-man Wyatt Fadden, who has bulged the twine 18 times in 29 games played. On the back-end, both Patrique Bulloch and Marc Hilderbrand will try to weather to storm between the pipes and backstop the Warriors to a first-round upset.

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*Bantam 2 Playoff action will begin February 23rd with all four teams skating at the Maples Multiplex*

### Winnipeg Hawks:

A bitter cross-town rivalry will be renewed when the post-season gets underway, as the Winnipeg Hawks (15-11-1-2) will play host to the Winnipeg Sharks (15-11-0-2). These two teams spent the better part of the season bouncing back and forth in the AAA Bantam 2 standings, giving hockey fans a sneak preview of what should prove to be a lengthy action-packed series. “We’ve had some good games, and some bad games against this team. We’ve won three, they’ve won three. If we plan on winning, we’re going to have to gel as a unit, and play hard for sixty-plus minutes every night” explained Hawks Bench Boss Brent Riguidel on how these two team match-up on paper. Up front, Jordyn Boyd, Devan Schram and Lyrik Friesen will be called upon to lead the offensive attack. The slick-skating trio has combined for 40 goals and 75 points in just 27 games played. On the back-end, Coach Riguidel has been very please with the play of his net-minders Brenden Fiekelborn and Alex Henry, but needs his players to hold their end of the bargain and stay out of the sin bin. “We’re going to have to stay out of the box. I would like to improve our special teams, but staying away from undisciplined penalties will pay dividends to our playoff success”

### Winnipeg Sharks:

It’s been an up and down campaign for the Winnipeg Sharks, but with the regular season coming to an end, the Sharks are finally beginning to hit their stride. “These boys continue to amaze the coaching staff, and have exceeded our expectations all year” explained Sharks Assistant Coach Randy Bauer on his team’s success. The playoff picture has already been drawn for the Sharks, but home-ice advantage is still up for grabs. With the season series tied at three games apiece, the Winnipeg Sharks and Winnipeg Hawks will do battle on February 19<sup>th</sup> for season-series supremacy and home ice advantage throughout the first round of the second season. The offensive, defensive and even depth-chart similarities between these two squads should make for an epic AAA playoff series. On the back end, the Sharks have one of the deepest and toughest blue lines in the entire league, anchored by the impressive acrobatics of All-Star net-minder Teagan Sacher. Up front, the Sharks boast a well-balanced offensive attack led by Justin Derlago who has notched 22 points, including 14 goals in 26 games played.

***ELITE WISHES ALL OF OUR  
TEAMS BEST OF LUCK THIS  
PLAYOFF SEASON!***

