

JAPAN CANADA INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY

July 8th – 20th / Sapporo, Tomakomai, Tokachi, Kushiro, Tokyo





Vancouver Asahi Tigers

The Asahi Tigers were a well known Japanese–Canadian baseball team that played between 1914 and 1941. The pride of Vancouver's Little Tokyo was made up of amateur Japanese baseball players who competed against the City's white ball clubs. In 1919 they won the Vancouver International League title and over the next two decades won countless tournaments and five straight Pacific Northwest Championships.

During a time of segregation and widespread discrimination the popularity of the Asahi Tigers brought both white and Japanese spectators together to cheer for the same team.

Shortly after winning the Championship title 1941 Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and the team was disbanded as Japanese-Canadians were forced into internment camps across the country. The individual Asahi members continued to work their magic by bringing baseball into the camps. Popularity grew and soon interned Japanese-Canadians were playing alongside their RCMP guards. In 2003 the Asahi Tigers were inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of fame, the BC Sports Hall of Fame in 2005, and designated an Event of National Historic Significance in 2008.

In the tradition of the Asahi Tigers the JCIH program and the Asahi Blades hope to use ice hockey as a conduit to help establish bridges between Canadian and Japan communities.







JCIH Mission

Japan-Canada International Hockey (JCIH) is a volunteer program that uses ice hockey as a means for introducing young Japanese-Canadian youth to the country of their heritage.

This bi-yearly event represents an important educational and cultural opportunity for a group of exceptional young men (aged 16-18) who enjoy the game of hockey and through this sport have been given the chance of a lifetime to experience Japan during a two week visit. Committees based in Burnaby, BC and Kushiro, Hokkaido work together before and during each trip to ensure a schedule that offers a good mix of competitive hockey and community activities.

This year, the Asahi Blades hockey team will start the trip by travelling to the northern Island of Hokkaido where they will play against teams from Sapporo, Tomakomai, Tokachi and Kushiro, before departing for the island of Honshu where they will play their final game against Saitama in Tokyo. In addition to the hockey, the players will be involved in many activities such as: taking in the city sights of Tokyo, visiting a number of high schools, meeting with City officials and the media, participating in a summer festival, and spending time at home with local families.

It took a considerable amount of fundraising by the families and players to make this trip possible. If not for the generous contributions of our many supporters, this trip would not have been possible.

On behalf of the players, families and coaches of the 2018 JCIH Asahi Blades hockey team, I would like to thank all those that have supported the team.



Yours sincerely,

Richard Taki Organizing Committee





Greetings from Coach Hitomi Nakajima

I would like to begin by thanking the many people that have so graciously supported the JCIH "Asahi Blade 2018 Team". It is indeed my honour to serve as the head coach for this team.

This is truly an unbelievable opportunity for these young people to be able to participate in an exchange of Canadian and Japanese cultures through the sport of ice hockey. I hope that each player takes the time to truly appreciate this experience. Not just for the hockey that they are about to play, but for their own personal growth on this journey.

As the sister city to Burnaby, the host city of Kushiro has provided an unforgettable time for the players and families that have made the trip since 2006. This year will be no different.

It is my hope that the JCIH program will create a lasting memory and over time these players will have the opportunity to return to Japan, perhaps accompanying their own children's team.

Congratulations to all players who made the team. I hope you enjoy your time in Japan.

Once again, thank you to everyone for all you have done to make this trip possible.

Yours Sincerely,

Hitomi Nakajima

Head Coach Asahi Blades 2018





2018 Trip Itinerary



Da	ate	Location	Morning	Afternoon	Evening		
7/08	Sun	YVR - NRT	Depart Vancouver	(Travel)			
7/09	Mon	Sapporo	(Tra	vel)	Arrive in Sapporo		
7/10	Tue	Sapporo	Sightseeing	Sightseeing	Game I vs Hokkai		
7/11	Wed	Tomakomi	Travel to Tomakomi	Sightseeing	Game 2 vs Komazawa		
7/12	Thu	Tokachi	Travel to Tomamu	Hokuyo Highschool	Game 3 vs Shimizu		
7/13	Fri	Kushiro	Visit Mayor of Kushiro	Konan High School	Game 4 vs Bushukan		
7/14	Sat	Kushiro	Higashi High School	Itsukushima Shrine festival	Game 5 vs Bushukan		
7/15	Sun	Kushiro	Hom	estay	Game 6 vs Bushukan		
7/16	Mon	Kushiro		Nagagutsu Hockey			
7/17	Tue	Kushiro	Visit Tottori HS	Visit Meiki HS	Farewell Party		
7/18	Wed	Tokyo	Travel t	Game7 vs Saitama			
7/19	Thu	Tokyo	Sightseeing (Asakusa, Harajuku, Shibuya)				
7/20	Fri	Tokyo		Depart Tokyo			







2018 Team Roster

#	Player	Position	Hometown
I	Engleson, Jordy	Goaltender	Vancouver, BC
4	Matsuda, Andrais	Defense	Burnaby , BC
5	Matsuo, Tyler	Defense	Richmond, BC
6	Dixon, Sam	Forward	West Kelowna, BC
7	Araki-Young, Bradley	Defense	Richmond, BC
8	Araki-Young, Michael	Forward	Richmond, BC
10	Ward, Ben	Forward	Kamloops, BC
13	La Cara, Rocco	Forward	Vancouver, BC
14	Macdonell, Jeremy	Forward	Coquitlam , BC
15	MacInnes, Justin	Forward	Kamloops, BC
16	La Cara, Toma	Forward	Vancouver , BC
18	Hoover, Kyle	Defense	Coquitlam, BC
22	Takama, Jordan	Forward	Surrey , BC
25	Macdonell, Liam	Defense	Coquitlam , BC
29	Sasaki, Carter	Goaltender	Surrey, BC
40	Takama, Cody	Defense	Surrey , BC
53	Sato, Davis	Forward	Richmond, BC
88	Bayley, Ryan	Defense	Richmond, BC
	Hitomi Nakajima	Head Coach	Kushiro, Japan
	Richard Taki	Assistant Coach	Coquitlam, BC



I – goalie

Jordy Engleson

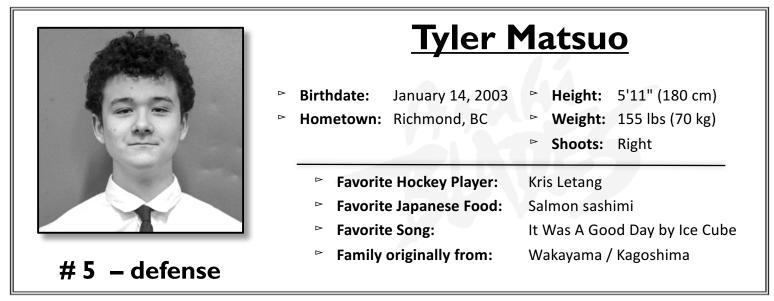
ΔΔ	Birthdate:October 27, 2000Hometown:Vancouver, BC	 ▶ Height: 6'1" (185cm) ▶ Weight: 160 lbs (73 kg) ▶ Shoots: Left
	Favorite Hockey Player:	Braden Holtby
	Favorite Japanese Food:	Katsudon
	Favorite Song:	1901 by Phoenix
	Family originally from:	Kobe / Kyoto

Andrais Matsuda

Δ	Birthdate: Hometown:	August 7, 2001 Burnaby, BC	ΔΔ		6'1" (185cm) 185 lbs (84 kg) Left
	⊳ Favorit	e Hockey Player:	Kr	is Letang	
	▷ Favorit	e Japanese Food:	Ina	ari	
	▷ Favorit	e Song:	Ur	ncle Tom's	Cabin
	▷ Family	originally from: $H^{igodoldow}$	Hi	roshima	



#4 – defense





#6 – forward

Sam Dixon

•	Birthdate: Hometown:	March 13, 2002 West Kelowna, BC	ΔΔΔ	-	5'9" (175 cm) 150 lbs (68 kg) Left
	▷ Favorite	e Hockey Player:	Jo	e Thornto	n
	▷ Favorite	e Japanese Food:	Ra	men	
	▷ Favorite	e Song:	Pia	ano Man k	by Billy Joel
	Family	originally from:	Ku	mamoto	

Bradley Araki-Young

Birthdate: Hometown:	February 16 2002 Richmond, BC			5'11" (180 cm) 150 lbs (68 kg) Left	R
⊳ Favorite	e Hockey Player:	Br	ent Burns		
▷ Favorit	e Japanese Food:	Tu	ina roll		
▷ Favorit	e Song:	2 ۱	vaults		1
▷ Family	originally from:	Ku	imamoto	Kyushu	# 7



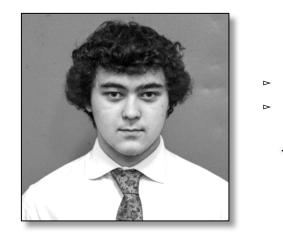
7 – defense



#8-forward

Michael Hikaru Araki-Young

	⊳	Weight:	6'0" (183 cm) 155 lbs (70 kg) Left
e Japanese Food: e Song:	(Be Big	eef) Udon g Spender	or Gyoza by A\$AP Rocky
	January 24, 2000 Richmond, BC e Hockey Player: e Japanese Food: e Song: originally from:	Richmond, BC	Richmond, BC Weight: Shoots: Hockey Player: Brock Boese Japanese Food: (Beef) Udon Big Spender



10 - forward

⊳

Ben Ward

Birthdate: August 30, 2001 Hometown: Kamloops, BC	 ▶ Height: 5'6" (168 cm) ▶ Weight: 150 lbs (68 kg) ▶ Shoots: Left 	
▷ Favorite Hockey Player:	Sidney Crosby	
Favorite Japanese Food:	Salmon Maki	
Favorite Song:		
Family originally from:	Shizuoka Kai	

<u>Rocco La Cara</u>

▶ **Height:** 5'5" (165 cm) Birthdate: August 28, 2003 Hometown: Vancouver, BC Weight: 145 lbs (66 kg) ▶ Shoots: Left Favorite Hockey Player: Pavel Datsyuk Favorite Japanese Food: Tonkatsu ⊳ Favorite Song: The show goes on Family originally from: Niigata \triangleright



#13-forward



14 - forward

Jeremy Macdonell

ΔΔ	Birthdate: August 6, 2003 Hometown: Coquitlam, BC	 ▶ Height: 5'8" (172 cm) ▶ Weight: 125 lbs (57 kg) ▶ Shoots: Left
	 Favorite Hockey Player: Favorite Japanese Food: Favorite Song: Family originally from: 	Patrick Kane Sushi Thunderstruck by AC/DC Mieken



#15 - forward

Justin MacInnes

	► Favorite	e Hockey Player:	ΓŢ	Oshie	
			۵	Shoots:	Right
⊳	Hometown:	Kamloops. BC	⊳	Weight:	140 lbs (64 kg)
⊳	Birthdate:	February 9, 2000	⊳	Height:	5"7"(170 cm)

- ▶ Favorite Japanese Food:
- **Favorite Song:**
- Family originally from:
- IJ Ushie
 - **Tempura Shrimp** Everyday by A\$AP Rocky Wakayama

<u>Toma La Cara</u>

Birthdate: February 2, 2000 Hometown: Vancouver, BC

▶ Favorite Song:

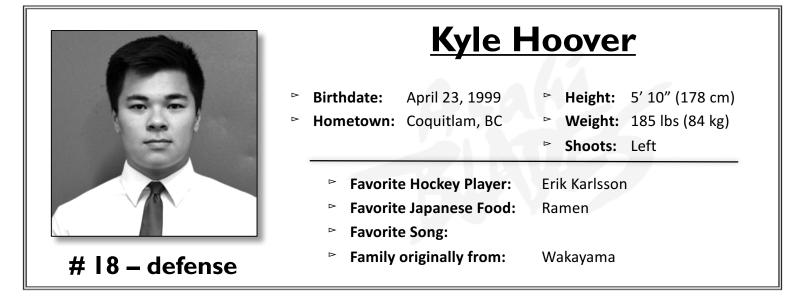
- Height: 5' 10" (178 cm) Weight: 165 lbs (75 kg) ▶ Shoots: Left
- Favorite Hockey Player:
 - Favorite Japanese Food: Ramen
 - Winter by Khalid

Steven Stamkos

Family originally from: Niigata



16 - forward





22 – forward

<u>Jordan Takama</u>

			Ľ.	⊳	Shoots:	Left
⊳	Hometown:	Coquitlam, BC		⊳	Weight:	116 lbs (53 kg)
⊳	Birthdate:	May 18, 2003		⊳	Height:	5'6" (168 cm)

Favorite Hockey Player:
 Favorite Japanese Food:

- ▹ Favorite Song:
- ▶ Family originally from:
- Daniel Sedin Unagi Don

Let you Down

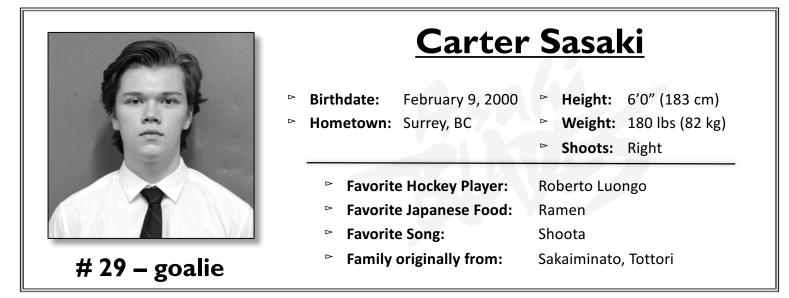
Wakayama / Shizuoka

Liam Macdonell

Δ	Birthdate:	September 17, 19	99 ⊳	Height:	6'0" (183 cm)		
⊳	Hometown:	Coquitlam, BC	⊳	Weight:	165 lbs (75 kg)		
			Δ	Shoots:	Left		
	▷ Favorite	e Hockey Player:	Jo	rdan Eberl	e		
	⊳ Favorite	e Japanese Food:	Sushi				
	⊳ Favorite	e Song:		Wagon Wheel			
▷ Family		originally from:		Mieken			



#25 – defense





#40 – defense

<u>Cody Takama</u>

Δ	Birthdate: Hometown:		⊳	-	6'0" (183 cm) 155 lbs (70 kg) Right
	 Favorite Hockey Player: Favorite Japanese Food: Favorite Song: 		Connor McDavid Ramen Molly Cyrus		

Davis Sato

⊳

 \triangleright

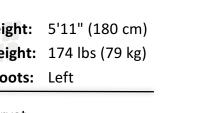
Birthdate: May 24, 2003 ⊳

-	Hometown:	Richmond,	BC

⊳	Height:	5'11" (180 cm)
	Weight:	174 lbs (79 kg)
	Shoots:	Left

▶ Favorite Hockey Player:

- **Favorite Japanese Food:** ⊳
- ▶ Favorite Song:
- Family originally from: \triangleright



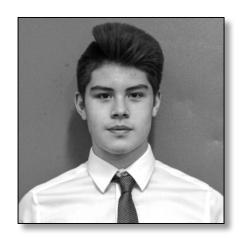
Family originally from:

Bo Horvat Gyoza, Tonkatsu Midnight – by Still Young Taketa, Kyushu



Wakayama / Shizuoka

53 – forward



#88 – defense

▶ **Height:** 5′ 10″ (178 cm) Birthdate: July 27, 2001 Hometown: Richmond, BC ▷ Weight: 170 lbs (77 kg) ⊳ Shoots: Right Alexander Ovechkin Favorite Hockey Player: Pork Katsudon Favorite Japanese Food: **Favorite Song:**

Ryan Bayley

- Family originally from: ⊳
- Aichi / Hiroshima

Hurt To Look

★ 2018 Coaching Staff ★







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Scott Construction wish the 2018 Asahi Blades good luck in **Japan!**





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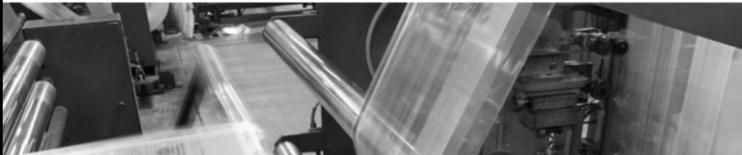




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INSPIRATION HAS NO LIMITS

Congratulations to all members of the 2018 Asahi Blades hockey team. We know it takes hard work and perseverance to reach your goals. Your achievements on and off the ice are an inspiration to your family, friends and the community around you. Our lawyers and staff and the Schroter family wish you great success in the Land of the Rising Sun.

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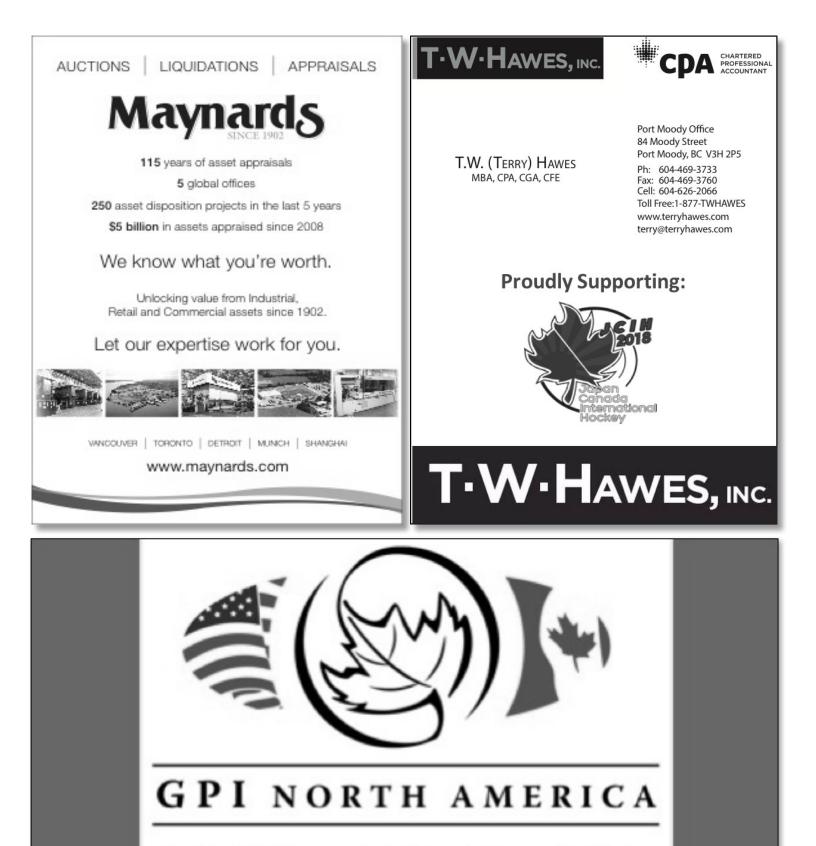




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We would also like to thank all the parents and family members of the 2018 Asahi Blades, JCIH, JCIH Japan, our coaches, alumni and everyone who purchased raffle tickets or attended our banquet for all their time spent to help make this trip a success

Thank you from the







Much has been written about what sports does for youth. We doubt any would argue the many benefits it provides in the growth of character and lifelong skills.

A lot of support comes from families that have been giving repeatedly for many years, whether it be coaching, paying for registration, endless fundraising, or simply offering a ride to a teammate. It's what allows families and players to participate who might not otherwise have the opportunity to do so. Every small gesture makes it work and is a part of the culture of sport.

We have also had a great number of people step up with support, not only in donations or sponsorship, but with their time working on one of the various committees, reserving ice times, printing raffle tickets, etc... Everyone truly understands what a positive cultural experience this will be for those involved, both here as well as in Japan. Without that dedication and support this kind of initiative doesn't get off the ground and frankly without everyone's contributions it wouldn't be possible for everyone to enjoy a once (or twice for some) in a lifetime opportunity.

The 2018 Asahi Blades would like to thank every supporter with heartfelt appreciation for their meaningful contributions, no matter how big or small for helping make this experience possible for these young men. It's truly appreciated and will long be remembered.

Thank you from the







The "Awajimusubi" knot originates from traditional Japanese culture and tradition..

It is considered as a symbol of strong bond. The knot is loosely wound into loops. If you pull at the ends of the cord, the loops will be smaller and closer together. This type of knot is used to symbolize "growing together"

The JCIH logo symbolizes the growing relationship between the youth of Japan and Canada.