



Hall of Fame

1975 - 1995 Alaska Gold Kings

Formal youth hockey began in Fairbanks approximately 1970.

In 1975, business leaders formed an all-star men's team known as the Teamsters. Many of the players were from Fairbanks, mixed with a few skaters from Seattle and Sault Ste Marie, Michigan.

Roger McKinnon was brought in to coach the fledgling squad. They played a limited schedule against teams from Anchorage and Seattle. Home games were played in the Big Dipper, which was a converted World War II aircraft hangar. The facility was unheated.

Prior to the 1977 season, the team was renamed the Gold Kings. John Rosie filled the role of President. The schedule expanded to include teams from other parts of the US and Canada.

In 1978 the team participated in the first of many National Tournaments and placed second in Roseau, Minnesota.

Progress continued during the 1980s. The Dipper was renovated into the arena we know today. The new comfort level attracted more fans.

The Gold Kings roster also evolved, as star players from other parts of the country were brought to Fairbanks to improve talent and depth.

The team won its first National Championship in 1983, followed by another title in 1988.

Rivalries developed with the Saint Paul Parkers, Minneapolis Bucks, Whitehorse Huskies, and Anchorage Aces.

A 4-4 game with the Russian National "B" team in 1987 is widely considered the greatest hockey game ever played in Fairbanks.

The team won National Championships in 1990, 1992 and 1995.

The transition from amateur to minor professional leagues throughout the country left fewer and fewer amateur teams to the Gold Kings schedule. Out of necessity, the Gold Kings morphed into a pro team in 1994.

The organization moved to Colorado Springs following the 1995-96 season. The twenty-year Gold King era had come to an end.

Many of the young men who came to Fairbanks for the sole purpose of playing hockey found that they loved the people and the town. They found jobs, started families, coached youth hockey, and generally became contributing members of the community.

Rosie reflects, "I have lots of fond memories of the team ... the folks I worked with and those terrific fans. We had such staunch support within the community. That feeling will never be equaled."

The arduous work of untold numbers of volunteers made the Gold Kings a strong program. Fans crowded the Dipper to support the team. Those two decades brought unprecedented on-ice success, including five National Championships. The Gold Kings will live on as the standard of excellence against which other hockey programs will be judged.

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