



THUNDER BAY INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL

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NHL PLAYERS STEP UP TO THE PLATE

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The Thunder Bay International Baseball Association (TBIBA) is pleased to announce a NHL Pro Stars Slow Pitch Exhibition game on **Sunday July 13th** as part of Warm Up to the Worlds, our World Junior Lead Off Celebration, presented by Gore Motors Honda, Dougall Media and Chronicle Journal.

The game will pit the Junior (under 19) National Baseball team of Canada, starring Olympian Brett Lawrie against our Thunder Bay NHL products Mark Staal, Jordan Staal, Taylor Pyatt, Patrick Sharp, Alex Auld and more in a fun 5 inning slowpitch game at Port Arthur Stadium. Game time is 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 adults, \$4 seniors/students and \$2, children under 12 and kids under 2 are free.

The NHL Stars will be available for autographs after the game.

Team Canada is assembling in Thunder Bay to begin a 4 city cross country tour that will culminate in the World Junior Championships in Edmonton beginning July 25th (www.internationalbaseball.ca) Players and staff of Team Canada will arrive in Thunder Bay tomorrow on four consecutive Air Canada flights starting at 12:35 pm

The warm-up tournament for Canada's Under 19 Junior National Baseball team and the Junior National team of Chinese-Taipei will take place from July 13 to 16 at Port Arthur Stadium. It will also feature a local Select team from the Thunder Bay Baseball Association in addition to the two national teams of 17 and 18 year old elite players representing their countries. This event is the fifth such event local baseball organizers have hosted dating back to 1995.

"The TBIBA is hoping that this event will be a catalyst for recruiting volunteers and truly engaging the community as we continue with our preparations to host the 2010 World Juniors," added Hebert. "With the improvements being made to Baseball Central and the presence of the Port Arthur Stadium, our facilities, not to mention our location on the continent, lend themselves to hosting big national and international events."

The TBIBA would like to acknowledge the support of the City of Thunder Bay through the Event Development Grant Funding Program.

For more information, contact Warren Philp, Executive Director at 472-1842 cell or 344-5596 home or Larry Hebert, President at 624-8551 or or visit www.tbibaseball.ca