

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 5, 2008

Triplet Brothers set to compete at the BC Winter Games

Triplet brothers, Gerry, Leo and Miles Fitzgerald from Port Alberni, will compete for the Vancouver Island-Central Coast (Zone 6) Hockey team headed to the 2008 BC Winter Games in Kimberley-Cranbrook, February 21-24.

The triplets earned their positions on the team after trying out against 120 other players. They are quite famous in the Island hockey world where they are described to "hit the ice at warp speed and dodge and squirm and move with speed and panache to create havoc amongst the competition." To make things even more interesting, the boys are all listed as five feet tall and 95 pounds. Most of their teammates and competitors measure over six feet tall.

Vancouver Island-Central Coast (Zone 6) Assistant Coach, Chris Witt says, "It is quite a sight to see all three of them out there at the same time. They are very popular with their teammates."

The BC Hockey Association Under 16 High Performance program exposes players, coaches, and officials to short term competition and leads into the Under 17 program where players and personnel are identified for provincial, regional, and national teams. The BC Winter Games is a popular event for Western Hockey League scouts to see the best players in the age group compete against each other.

The BC Winter Games feature the best developing athletes in the province and are an important step towards provincial and national programs. All four BC members of Canada's Under 18 Hockey Team who won gold at the 2008 World Junior Championships, are BC Games alumni. John Negrin (West Vancouver), Kyle Turris (New Westminster), Colton Gillies (Surrey) and Brett Sonne (Maple Ridge) competed at the 2004 BC Winter Games.

The Kimberley-Cranbrook 2008 BC Winter Games will feature over 1500 athletes, 350 coaches, and 200 technical officials competing in twenty sports from February 21-24. For results during the BC Winter Games please visit <u>www.bcgames.org</u>.

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