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South Florida Travel Ice Hockey Team has stand-out performance against the Nation's best 10 & 11 year olds in Chicago

Team JM Lexus AAA '96

Elite Spring Travel Hockey Team

You may not yet be aware, but there is a very special youth hockey team competing on an elite, national level right out of our hometown Pines Ice Arena, Team JM Lexus AAA 96 (www.lexushockey.com). Formed from a core group of 10 and 11 year old ice hockey players that just weren't ready for an off-season after winning nearly 50 games at the AA level (Tier 2) as the South Florida Golden Wolves Squirt AA, Team JM Lexus AAA 96, and the jump to AAA

(Tier 1) was made possible thanks to a generous sponsorship from JM Family Enterprises' JM Lexus Vice President-General Manager Jim Dunn.

This newly formed spring travel team has been nothing short of impressive so far this season. After traveling to Ellenton, FL and winning three games against competition from Florida and Massachusetts, the team faced off against a sponsored travel team from Ft. McMurray, Canada. In a friendly get-together in Orlando, dubbed the Bash at the Beach, the teams shared a hotel, team bus and several meals but did not share wins. The Oil Barons from Ft. McMurray, Canada fell to Team JM Lexus in both games, helping prepare Team JM Lexus for its astonishing performance this past weekend in Chicago. In its first true AAA tournament in the elite Midwest hockey region, Team JM Lexus was one of 16 AAA '96 teams competing in the Bresy Chi-Town Shuffle in Orland Park, Chicago. While the other team from Florida lost all four games, Team JM Lexus beat teams from Minnesota, Wisconsin and the home town Chicago Chill to go undefeated and win its division. Although the surreal run was ended in the quarter finals by one of the top teams in North America, the Phoenix Roadrunners, Team JM Lexus left Chicago completely exhausted, but proud of their determined, gutsy performance. A performance that elicited statements overheard such as "I hope we don't have to face that team from Florida, they're scary good" and invites to play elite teams like Detroit's top ranked Compuware (see complete results at www.chicagomission.com/ChiTownShuffle_96.htm).

Goalies Joey Cruz and Nick Amato; forwards, Austin Beaulieu, Austin McMurray, Brad Perlman, Anthony Mangano, Jake Simons, Steven Merl, Gage Griffin and Stanley Brenner; and defenseman, Chase Priskie, Matt Stief, Andrew Kuczynski and Nathan Tummings make up Team JM Lexus AAA 96's roster. The team is coached by Golden Wolves head coach Dave McMurray, who is assisted by coaches Mark Beaulieu and John Griffin, and team manager Lisa Evans.

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