



HANDOUT

Members of the Winnipeg Falcons pose with the trophy after winning their division at the Iceland International Ice Hockey Cup last weekend in Reykjavik.

Falcons fly high in Icelandic quest

A Winnipeg hockey team recently came home from Iceland with a championship trophy.

The Winnipeg Falcons recreational team won their Iceland International Ice Hockey Cup last weekend.

The Falcons beat the defending champion New Jersey Foxes 5-3 in Sunday's final of

the eight-team rec division.

The Falcons, who were featured on the front page of a Reykjavik newspaper, chose their team name for a couple of reasons.

"This was a tribute to the Winnipeg team that won the first ice hockey gold medal in the 1920 Olympics," team member Grant Stefanson wrote in an e-mail. "That team

consisted of mainly Icelandic immigrants or children of the immigrants who were all from Winnipeg. The falcon is the national bird of Iceland."

The tournament is a fundraiser to purchase hockey equipment for Icelandic children. Winnipeg's Sami Jo Small was also there, promoting the sport to the country's women.

Winnipeggers bronzed

A couple of Winnipeg boys' soccer teams made it to the podium at the 2011 Canadian Soccer Association National Club Championships.

Phoenix SC finished third in the under-14 tournament, while FC Northwest did the same in the under-18 event.

"This was a fantastic

experience for the players and one they'll never forget," Phoenix head coach Malcolm Mitchell said in a press release. "The effort shown in all of the games and the way they represented themselves and the province on and off the field was a huge credit to the players and their families."

"We went into this tournament with high hopes," Northwest head coach Danny Neta said. "Being

a young squad we thought that we were going to be matched up against some tough kids, but size didn't matter. We did very well our first two games against the two stronger teams in our group as we drew 1-1 to Quebec and came out on top of BC 3-1."

Winnipeg will host the senior men's and women's club championships in 2012.

— Winnipeg Sun