



Warm ups here!

Traveling teams receive warm ups at first practice!



Equipment Director Alan Duchon has done the unthinkable! Many traveling teams received their jerseys, socks, AND their warm ups at their first scheduled team practice.

The LHA board approved a plan to get warm ups into the hands of our skaters much earlier this year. The previous system left LHA vulnerable to vendors not delivering on time. Westwood Sports hosted three sizing sessions at Ames in August/ September.

The distribution of jerseys, pucks, first aid kits, and socks was done in an orderly fashion at the newly renovated storage area.

Hats off to the long list of volunteers who made every step of this improved process possible!

LHA Coach Tells His Story, from "C" to "Pro"

Every year around tryout time, LHA notices the inevitable "dropout" effect in the Pee wee and especially the Bantam level. There are many different reasons that kids choose to give up hockey. If a player that hasn't hit puberty is dropping out of hockey because he or she thinks, "I'm not good enough," then as an association, we need to look at what we're doing to educate both kids and parents about the many options that kids have in the LHA.

Mark Olsen is an LHA coach who currently coaches both a U12 and a Mite team. Mark has coached in Lakeville for several years. Mark is a great example for our kids. He didn't always play on an "A" team, but as he matured, so did his game.

Mark started playing hockey when he was 7 years old. He tried out for the Burnsville Squirt team and was cut from both the "A" and "B" team. His first year of Pee wee hockey was spent on the "B" team. He made some "A" teams along the way, but the point is that in developmental hockey, kids develop at different rates.

Mark attended Burnsville High School and was a two-time Minnesota State Tournament participant. After high school, he earned a scholarship to Colorado College and lettered for four consecutive years. The Calgary Flames picked Mark up in the 1986 draft.

What if Mark had been discouraged as a Squirt playing on a C team, or a Pee wee playing on a B team? Mark was kind enough to answer some questions for us.

Q: What was the best advice you ever got from a youth coach?

A: One of the best coaches I had was my Pee wee "B" coach who demonstrated skills and drills.

He actively participated in every practice and continually challenged us to improve.

Q: What was the best advice you ever got from a college coach?

A: College hockey is a business. The best advice I probably got in college was to make sure I finished my college degree.

Q: What was your most memorable moment in youth hockey?

A: Scoring my first goal sticks in my mind. I was a Mite and I was in the 2nd grade. I scored only two goals that whole year.

Q: Did you play hockey in the off-season?

A: We played, but not very much. There were other sports we played that were "in season".

Q: What is your best advice for a youth player struggling to make an "A" team, but who doesn't make the cut?

A: My suggestion would be to keep playing for the love of the game. I think making an "A" team is often more important to the parents than the child.

Q: What is the best part of coaching kids?

A: For the most part they are excited to be at the rink and learn. It is gratifying to see the progress that the kids make from the start of the season to the end

Remember to be positive with kids during and after tryouts. Support the evaluators' results, even if they're not what you expected.

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Lakeville Hockey Association



SKATE Program Still looking for coordinator

If you could volunteer your time to run the **S.K.A.T.E.** (**S**katers **K**eep **A**chieving **T**hrough **E**ducation) program for the 2008/9 season, our student athletes would be grateful.

Please contact Lisa Diercks if you can **step up and volunteer** for this program. This is a perfect opportunity to get involved.

ldiercks@charter.net

The time commitment would be minimal and Lisa Diercks is very willing to show you the ropes.

Mite Fundraisers

Mite fundraising packets were handed out at the evaluations on the weekend of October 25th. Mite Prep packets will be handed out on November 9th. If you have not received your fundraising packet or have been issued more than 2 per family, please contact Linda Mullenbach and she will help you out.

fundraisingdirector@lakevillehockey.org

Agreements governing LHA's allotted ice explained

There are two documents that govern the LHA's use of the ice at Ames and Hasse: the **Joint Powers Agreement** and the **Facility Use Policy**. In essence, the City of Lakeville and the schools are the two parties of the JPA since they were the contributors to the ice arenas. The JPA states that the first right goes to the city (i.e., open skate, learn to skate), the second right goes to the Lakeville North and South high schools. LHA is the recipient of the remaining ice hours and is required to submit its requirements for ice hours to the city by August 1st.

As the needs change for the high schools, so do the hours that are consumed. This season an additional girls JV team was added. Their game and practice times took prime ice away from youth skaters.

In a nutshell, the Facilities Use Policy requires that we use

prime hours, but also the late evening hours (until 10:30 PM) and the early hours on the weekend (starting at 6:00 AM). Undesirable hours may not be sold by LHA to other parties outside of LHA.

Team Sponsorships

Sponsorship director Jim Lunneborg announced a new plan to bring sponsors to LHA at the recent manager meeting. Each team is invited to reach out to local businesses in an effort to recruit additional sponsors. Individual teams will get to keep 30% of what they collect to help defray team expenses. The remaining 70% goes directly to help all association members reduce their ice costs. Please contact your team manager if you own a business or know of a sponsor for LHA. Questions? jlunneborg@farmersagent.com

Welcome New Sponsors!

Thank you for supporting our athletes!

Platinum

- *Lakeville Athletics
- *Westwood Sports
- *Arnold Orthodontics
- *Fowler Construction

Gold

- *Sports Star Photography

Bronze

- *Blue Line Medical Services
- *John Zweber – State Farm
- *Lupient Chevrolet

These sponsors have graciously sponsored the LHA. All monies donated will directly benefit our members.

Please support their loyalty with your business throughout the season.



Junior Gold Level Director, Steve Burns, answers question, "What exactly is Junior Gold?"

I have had the question posed to me several times, "What exactly is Junior Gold?" Junior Gold is an option for high school boys that have decided not to play for their high school. Boys born on or after 7/1/89 are eligible.

Initially, the Junior Gold team is not typically the team that players look forward to making. However, after they decide to not play for the high school or get past the initial disappointment of not making the high school team, they quickly find out how much fun Jr. Gold hockey is. I have heard many players say that playing Jr. Gold was the most fun they have ever had playing hockey.

The word "fun" is used more at this level than any other. Maybe it's because for some of the players, the pressure is off. At this point, they aren't playing to make the pros, get a college scholarship, playing for their parents, or to impress a girl. They are playing for

the love of the game, period.

This year LHA is planning on having one Jr. Gold B team. The team will play a 16-game schedule against other District 8 teams. They also will play in three tournaments, participate in post-season tournaments, and have scrimmages. They play about 35-40 games per year and have about a 2 games to 1 practice ratio.

Tryouts begin November 20th, right after the high schools complete their tryouts. We are expecting approximately 23 players to tryout. Players can wait until after the high school tryouts are completed to register.

Prior to the addition of Lakeville South, LHA had two Jr. Gold teams (A and B). As the number of Jr. Gold age players grows, we'll add more teams. Jr. Gold B plays within District 8, Jr. Gold A and U-16 play in the Metro Hockey League. LHA Junior Gold teams

Another avenue is available through the LHA for high school boys that choose not to skate for their high school.

have played in three of the last four state tournaments, reeling in the state championship last year.

Jr. Gold head coach, Scott Orrey, has coached at this level for 16 years and has been around Jr. Gold hockey for 25 years. Scott's father coaches in northern Minnesota. Scott is exactly the kind of man we want around our young men. In addition to coaching LHA's first boys' state championship team, he has continued the tradition of having an Alumni game (held every December 26th), and started some new traditions. He has his team scrimmage a Wisconsin JV team, has a Senior Night, takes his team on bus trips, and organized a District 8 all-star game. If you have questions, you can reach Steve Burns via e-mail. srcb2458@aol.com

Thanks, Dr. Arnold!

The LHA would like to thank Dr. Arnold for once again providing free mouth guards for LHA players.

Dr. Arnold not only donated 420 mouth guards, but also his time and the time of 14 of his employees to get the job done. This is the 20th year Dr. Arnold has provided this service supporting youth hockey.

Arnold Orthodontics
952.892.5300

Gambling Update Megabingo a huge success for LHA

Megabingo is a new bingo craze that Lakeville Hockey is embracing. The LHA has added Megabingo to the regular Bingo line up at the Ole Piper on Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM. Megabingo is a linked Minnesota coverall game that features huge jackpots that have, at times, exceeded \$35,000. We have also added Bingo at the Red Fox Tavern on Thursday nights at 6:30 PM. Elko Speedway will host bingo on Saturday nights at 7:30 PM for the month of November.

Rocky's has closed. The LHA would like to extend a "thank you" to Rocky's for their generous support of Lakeville Hockey.

This Month's Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why does our team keep getting such lousy ice times?

A: Most people assumed that the addition of Hasse Arena would alleviate our ice shortages and give all of our kids more reasonable ice hours. Not true. Did you know that we really only have one "good" hour of ice at Hasse Arena every weeknight? Because the LHA is third in line for ice, our needs are superseded by the needs of the high schools and the city. Our use of these facilities is governed by the Joint Powers Agreement and the Facilities Use Policy. Please read more about this in the story on page 3. LHA's ice director has worked with lengthening practice times and other



creative time saving devices to wring the most out of the ice hours we do have to work with. The math is simple, there are very few "good" ice hours to be had, and many teams screaming for that ice. We have to take the bad with the good. It is a package deal.

Q: Why do I see teams from other cities with "home" ice at Hasse?

A: These associations petitioned for ice at Hasse Arena because there are kids that skate for these associations that live in the Lakeville City limits, thus paying Lakeville taxes. The cities include Apple Valley, Burnsville, Farmington, Rosemount and Prior Lake.

New Sponsor for LHA

**The LHA's Newest Platinum Sponsor,
Lakeville Athletics**



LA has been serving Lakeville and the surrounding communities with their sporting goods since May of 2000. Locally owned and operated by Scott Nelson, LA has been your one stop shop for all your sporting goods.

Lakeville Athletics specializes in all of the major team sports. You can also find all your local Cougar and Panther apparel at LA. If you have custom needs such as clothing, jerseys, hats, or any other specialty clothing item, LA will be happy to meet with you to make sure we meet your team's needs.

Please stop by! LA is located at 20168 Heritage Drive, or call with any questions. 952.469.2880.

Picture Day Coming!

Sports Star Photography has set the date for LHA traveling team pictures. U8-10, Squirt, Pee wee and Bantam teams will have their pictures taken on either November 3rd or 6th at the Kenwood Middle School cafeteria. Times and dates have been distributed to team managers. Please arrive 10 minutes prior to your scheduled time.

The LHA board chose Sports Star Photography because they have a wide variety of products offered at a competitive price. Sports Star Photography was also in a position to get pictures back to our members in time for the holidays.

Please take a look at this link if you would like to preview some of the exciting photo options that will be available to your child. Panoramic team posters, photo pucks, and other specialty items will be available (in addition to basic packages).

<http://www.sportsstarphoto.com/lakevillehockey/>

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Dates for your Calendar

Mite/U8 Evaluations and Mite Prep Start Date

Mite evaluations will wrap up the weekend of November 1st and 2nd, and Mite Prep skaters will hit the ice for the first time on November 9th.

Picture Day with Sports Star Photography

Sports Star Photography will be at the Kenwood Trail Middle School cafeteria on November 3rd and 6th to take pictures of Squirt, Pee wee, Bantam, U10 and U12 players. See complete story on Page 1.

District 8 Game Scheduling Meetings

Bantam C, Pee wee C: Hastings VFW - November 3 - 7:00 PM
Squirt A/B: Moose Lodge IGH - November 5 - 7:00 PM
Girls 14U B: Wakota Arena - November 10 - 7:00 PM
Squirt C: St. Paul Park American Legion - November 13 - 7:00 PM

Lakeville Ignite Invitational Tournament

The Lakeville Ignite Invitational tournament will be held the weekend of November 21st-23rd. Tournament Director CJ Anderson-Johnson is still looking for volunteers. If you can volunteer a few hours of your time, please e-mail CJ at tournamentdirector@lakevillehockey.org.