



Mite Madness!

First Annual Mite Madness Jamboree set for March 6-8



The LHA has organized a Jamboree for all levels of Mites (1-4) for the weekend of March 7th. Games will take place at Hasse and Ames Arenas. The players will enjoy stiff competition, as well as the "tournament atmosphere" created by the playing of the National Anthem, music, and some fun announcing that is planned for their games. Volunteers are needed for various positions. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Tim Poehling.

mitedirector@lakevillehockey.org



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Lakeville North and South U10As Prevail in Fargo

The Lakeville North and South U10A teams met for the championship game at the Fargo All City Youth Hockey Tournament on Jan 2-4, 2009. To earn their spot in the championship game, both teams beat three worthy opponents. The South girls hammered Crookston, Orono, and the Fargo North Stars. The North girls thrashed Moorhead, Grand Forks and Buffalo. Both teams played great hockey to earn their championship playoff spot.

These young girls have grown up playing hockey with each other. They've played pond hockey, 3 on 3, or been on LHA coop teams together. These girls and their families have a special bond that made their amazing showing at this tournament all the sweeter. It also made picking sides for the championship game all the more difficult.

On the Sunday, January 4th championship battle, the temperature was frigid, but the girls were hot! The South girls came out with gusto and took control of the game. They led 3-1 after the second period. Coach Corby instructed his North girls to stick to their game plan and to play with their hearts.

He assured them that the gates would open, and open they did. With eight minutes left in the 3rd period, North added a goal to make the score 3-2. One minute later, North added another to tie it up at 3-3. The go-ahead goal came just over two minutes later to put North ahead 4-3. Seconds later they added an insurance goal to make it 5-3. Not to be undone, the South girls fought back and scored with just over three minutes left in the game to inch within a single goal, making it 5-4. Tension mounted when, with minutes left in the game, North received a minor penalty for tripping. Spirited play ensued. South pulled their goalie for one final surge. The Lakeville crowd was on their feet and cheering loudly. Seconds ticked by and North held on to their narrow lead to win the game 5-4.

It was a true championship for the Lakeville girls hockey program. Congratulations to all the girls who played in the Championship game. Both teams are pictured above with their trophies.





Lakeville Hockey Association



Donations Wanted

If you would like to donate to the Sled Hockey Association, please contact Nancy Quinnell.

nancyq@hollstadt.com

Warm Ups Seen Better Days?

There are a limited number of warm-up jackets and sweats available for purchase through LHA. Please contact Allan Duchon if you would like to replace a lost or worn out jacket or pants.

equipmentdirector@lakevillehockey.org

The City of Lakeville has closed the outdoor rinks for the season.

LNHS vs LSHS

Don't forget about the North vs South boys high school hockey game on 2/17/09. JV plays at 5:30 followed by Varsity at 7:30. Ames Arena will be rocking! Be sure to get your tickets in advance at LNHS!

The Special Case of Squirt C Referees

For anybody who has watched a Squirt C game, one thing is probably immediately apparent: the referees working Squirt C games are generally younger and far less experienced than the referees used in every higher level game played in the LHA. There is a reason for this. The Squirt C level is considered an in-house league. Accordingly, the District 8 rule requiring referees to be at least 15 years of age does not apply. Squirt C is considered the "minor leagues" of officiating. These games are where 12-14 year old kids with a desire of officiate get their start. All referees at this level have completed several hours of course instruction and passed a written test. However, they lack practical experience. The goal is to get a solid foundation of experience and to build confidence.

Fortunately for all involved, the LHA passed a resolution to provide a much more experienced referee to be on the ice during all Squirt C games to act as a mentor. This individual is not there to take over the game or to make all the calls. He or she will work with the referees during the game and critique them between periods and after the game.

The referee community appreciates the tolerance of the coaches and parents. Our main focus is to keep your kids safe on the ice, and the more positive experience we can make this learning process, the better

the long-term health the youth hockey in this area will be.

In the past couple seasons, the two incidences of the most egregious coach and fan behavior have both occurred during Squirt C games. This season's sparkling moment was instigated by a coach nursing a seven goal lead. Thankfully, both incidents in question were instigated by visiting teams. By and large, the coach and fan behavior in the LHA has been good. Please, let's all work together to keep it that way.

Board Position Available

The LHA Fundraising Director, Linda Mullenbach, is looking for her replacement. Linda has served as LHA's Fundraising Director for 3 years and will be moving on to help LHA in other areas. This board position requires a person that is detail oriented and well organized. If you have a friend that would share the job with you, that would be ideal. Please e-mail Linda: fundraisingdirector@lakevillehockey.org

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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.



Letter to the Editor on Ice Allocation

In recent weeks, I have noticed that parents have been on edge when the subject of ice allocation is brought up. Not less than three times this week alone, I got an ear-full about their misgivings. Very early and late ice, and the unfairness of the allocations, were the main concerns.

I gathered data by printing off the calendars of all traveling teams, from U10 to Bantams. I compared "touches" rather than hours, only looked at ice at Ames or Hasse, and did not include ice procured by coaches and managers from other rinks.

There indeed will be some data which can be viewed as though some teams had it "easier" than others on any given month, but when you look at the assignments over the entire four month season, amazingly, the distribution of ice was remarkably and surprisingly fair!

The interesting thing about statistical analysis is that if you look hard enough, you can

over-interpret the numbers. What I did find was NOT what I expected. My conclusion is that our ice director did a remarkable good job this year assigning the ice. This is not an easy feat, and for those of us who have been around a long time, we would be quickest to agree that being the ice director is a thankless job. Additionally, the constraints on the ice director are significant. With the addition of another high school JV team, we have fewer hours to work with than we had last season. Four high school teams take away a significant portion of the prime time ice available at Ames and Hasse. Since they have first dibs on this ice, the ice director must allocate the times left. Furthermore, not every level was determined at the same time, so passing out ice as each level was formed must have been a tremendous juggling act.

For those of us who have older children, we can recall the 5 AM practices that we had at Wakota or Richfield. We

Please note that the specific statistical portion of Chris Dantzscher's letter was omitted (with his permission) due to size constraints of the newsletter.

didn't even think about the 20 or 30 miles we drove. Those days are long gone. We are fortunate to have three sheets of ice and to have many other arenas in virtually every direction. In the grander picture of how LHA doled out ice this year, I find myself extremely content with the job done and would like to extend a pat on the back to the ice director, Kevin Wetzel, and his support staff. Thanks for a job well done.

Chris Dantzscher
Bantam Parent
Bantam South B1 Manager
macksplace@frontiernet.net

Coach Evaluations

Coach evaluation forms will be available on the LHA website very soon. All parents will be notified with an e-mail giving them a direct link to the confidential evaluation form. It is important that we hear from all parents about their 2008/9 coaching experience. All too often it is only the dissatisfied parents that take time to fill out the survey which gives the Hockey Development Committee a skewed view of that particular coach. If the HDC hears from all parents on the team, rather than just two or three, they feel like they've seen a bigger picture of the team dynamics. This is your chance to be heard. This is also the time to compliment a coach that has done a great job.

Each head and assistant coach your child had this year donated hundreds of hours of their personal time to make your child a better person and athlete.

Parents, please take the time to fill out the surveys!

This Month's Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is a checking from behind sometimes a 10/2 and at other times a 10/5?

A: The rules that the referees follow (USA Hockey) state that if a player checks another player from behind and injures the other player or if the player body checks or pushes the other player into the side boards, end boards or goal frame, then a major (5 minutes) plus a game misconduct (10 minutes) must be assessed to that player. The coach must have another player serve the 5-minute major (any except for the spare goal tender) and the offending player serves the 10-minute misconduct. If the short-handed team is scored on, the player



servicing the major penalty will not be let out of the penalty box. That rule only applies to minor penalties.

Q: I have heard that the concession stand at Ames Arena doesn't make any money. How can that be?

A: Great news! The new inventory control and cash register/cash receipt procedures put into place at the beginning of this season have definitely paid off. The result is a healthy profit. How much? The concession stand at Ames Arena has made a profit of just over \$13,000 since it opened in October!

Board Elections Set for March 31st

Elections will be held at Kenwood Trail Middle School at 7PM on March 31st

Bill Monahan, LHA President, will give a short (he promises) “State of LHA” address before the annual election and subsequent board meeting on 3/31/09. The “odd year” positions will be voted on this year. Please think about the talents that you have and the time commitment you’re willing to make and consider running. If you are unclear of exactly what any of the positions entail, click on any position of interest below. A short description of the job will be displayed along with the tasks associated with that position. Some positions do not require prior hockey experience. Additionally, there are other appointed positions that may better utilize your talents. If you would like to inquire about any of those, please contact Julie Hokeness. communicationsdirector@lakevillehockey.org

There is no way to vote by proxy, so you must be present to vote.

Odd Years	
President (Elect)	Secretary
Player Development Coordinator	VP of Development
Mite Prep Director	Mite Director
Equipment Director	Squirt Director



LHA in the Crease Issue 5 February, 2009

Sled Hockey coming to Ames



There will be a Minnesota Sled Hockey Exhibition on **Sunday, February, 22nd** at Ames Arena, Rink 1. There will be a youth game at 1:00, followed by a 2:00 game featuring an adult sled team against the LSHS hockey team. The Lakeville Hockey Association donated the ice for both events. The Minnesota Sled Hockey association is a charitable organization designed to encourage the formation of “Sled Hockey” teams locally, regionally and nationally. They hope to expand and add a team to the south metro area in the near future.

Individuals with physical and/or cognitive disabilities may participate in the sport of Sled Hockey. Most players self propel with short hockey sticks with picks on the opposite end of the blades. Players who cannot self propel are pushed by family members or volunteers who pair up with the athlete to compete together. Teambuilding and education of the general public about disability sports, and Sled Hockey in particular, are all goals of the association.

Admission to the event is free, but a suggested donation of a roll or two of clear tape is encouraged. Because of the unique nature of the sport, much tape is needed for every game and practice. The athletes are taped into their sleds and often have the hockey stick taped to their hands.

There will be a “chuck a puck” contest between games in an effort to raise \$600 for one player’s sled. Please take a couple hours out of your day on Sunday, February 22nd to show your community support for these athletes.

Because of the number of athletes that need handicapped parking, much of the front lot of Ames will be roped off for that purpose. Please plan accordingly and be understanding of these athletes’ needs!