



## U10 - "Devas" Ready to Hit the Ice! *By Dan Koniar*

The Wild has an exciting NEW TEAM beginning this season. Say "hello" to our U10 DEVAS!

**Cara Anzivino, Alyssa Boltik, Annie Ertz, Jessica Malloy, Ally Noles, Isabel Pesci, Meg Selkey, MKenna Stelpflug, Hal-lie Traverse, Jordan Trevisan & Sydney Weinreich.**

These young players are looking to take the basic skills that many have acquired in our Junior Wild program, and put them to use together as a team. The Wild Devas will take the ice for a combination of practices and games versus local mite & mini-mite teams. The team will get exposure to playing the game of hockey, and have fun

as a team doing so. It will also prove to get them ready for our competitive teams. Find out more about our new team at the U10 Devas webpage.

The players and parents are very excited, and invite everyone to come see the Wild Devas in action.

## Welcome Back to the "Coolest Game On Ice" *by Joe McGann*

I would like to extend a formal welcome back to all players (rookies and veterans) and your respective families. The first couple of months are now behind us and that means that all the paper work should be in place and there is nothing left to do but play and/or watch the "Coolest Game on Ice".

This year we have 8 teams in our association including an inaugural "Wild Devo" team put together by **Neil Traverse** and **Dan Koniar**. There is a movement afoot to change the name to the "Wild Deva's" and we will let you know the outcome of the referendum!

One of the historical strengths of the Wisconsin Wild program is our ability to attract and maintain very qualified coaches; and this year is no exception. We are very fortunate to be able to welcome **Paul Clarke** as the Head Coach of our U19AAA team. Paul comes equipped with a wealth of experience both as a player at Notre Dame and more recently as one of the coaches at Marquette. In addition to Paul, I would like

to welcome **Cyndi Robertson** and **Amanda Dowdy** who have undertaken the task of molding the future by coaching our U10 team and a special welcome back to **Bobby Leitza** who is coaching our U12AAA team. Providing positive leadership is probably the single most important quality that all these coaches and their respective assistants can bring to the rink and we will try to ensure that all our coaches, regardless of the age they are coaching, do their utmost to provide this type of leadership.

To the Coaches, Managers, Schedulers and other volunteers, all of whom are absolutely critical to the daily success of each team, we say a resounding **THANK YOU**. A special thanks goes to

**Joyce Shepet** who has the daunting task of taking care of all the required details behind the scenes that ensure our Seniors have opportunities to play hockey at the College level.

The hockey season is very long. Our association starts earlier and ends later than most. Notwithstanding the length of the season, it is important to remember that the overall objective is to ensure that there is a **consistent** positive environment for the girls to develop to the best of their ability. This environment is not limited to the rink, but extends to their travels to and from the rink and to the discussions with our daughters about the respective team and their teammates. This objective is an easy statement to make but can be difficult to achieve given the natural tendency to focus on the wins and the losses. Ultimately, hockey is all about having fun. If each and every player looks forward to coming to the rink (be it a practice or a game) then we have all done our collective job. And please remember the *apple juice!!!*

***DID YOU KNOW ...*** ?

In 1952 the average NHL player was 5 foot 10 inches and weighed 175 pounds. In 2003, that same player was 6 foot 1 inch and weighed 204

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## U16AAA *by Angela Zevnik & Michelle LaCombe*

The 2005-2006 U16AAA team is looking pretty strong, with their full roster of 20 kids. Practicing hard, eating right, school, and sleep is all this team has time for. Our first scrimmage was against a mixed team of High School boys and the U19AAA girls. That gave us quite a wake up call, but that's how you learn from your mistakes. Our second scrimmage game against CYA and was the Wilds first victory. All forwards and defense did a wonderful job. Obviously the coaches (**Al Mackenzie and Tom LaCombe**) workout-plan that they sent out over the summer was working.

Our first real test came at the Steven's Point Girls AAA Tournament. Mental and physical preparations included team

leader **Brittany Strassman's** Disney music, which proved to be the good-luck charm for the weekend. With a 1-1 tie with a good Walser Red team, a 5-2 win over Shattuck-St Mary's, a 1-0 win over the Michigan Ice Breakers, and 4-1 loss to a tough Walser Blue team, we ended up in the championship game against the Walser Blue team again.

We got another chance to prove ourselves. Although we didn't win the game or the championship, we definitely proved we could keep up with them. Goalie **Amy Torgerson** showed us her skill by keeping their goals only to 2. It was a long, tiring, weekend; and we all had worked hard. Now that we have an understanding on what some of this year

will be like, we can all be more prepared. We have a lot to improve on; and I believe we are all ready to take on the challenge.

Site seeing, adventuring, and bonding wasn't the only highlight of this passed weekend in Boston. Although we only played a total of three very tough games, it only took us this amount of time to realize just how hard we are going to have to work for the rest of this year. The tournament consisted of the best teams in the nation, and although we played tough, now we know that we have to step our game up. Lets go Wild.

Great job ladies on your 2nd place finish, and a special congratulations to **Brittany Strassman** on making the tournament All-Star Team!

## U12AAA *By John Zolinski*

The U12AAA's come into the season with some veterans, some new faces and a lot of enthusiasm. Head coach **Bob Leitza** returns to the Wild organization to work with **Mary Jurken**, last year's U12B coach. This year's team has a wide range of experience. Six players from last year's National silver medal team welcome nine players moving up from the U12B team and a pair of U10 aged newcomers to the Wild.

After 2 weeks of practice the team was excited to get their season going with a weekend series against the Madison Capitols September 17-18. Despite losing both games the team showed improvement throughout the weekend. Two weeks later the team returned to the ice against the Wild 14B's. The third period may have been the 12AAA's best performance yet, tying

the older girls 1-1 and out shooting them 8-5. After being out shot 54-29 in their first two games, they finished this game almost equal in shots at 27-26.

While the on-ice performance continues to improve so does the off-ice bonding. An increased amount of giggles, playful trash-talking & AOL Instant Messenger chat indicates that the best is yet to come.

The Wild U12AAA posted a 3-2 record for October while outscoring their opponents 30-16. The team made their first out of state trip a worthwhile one by defeating the Wilmette, IL U12's 15-0. The following weekend they faced the Capitols for the third time this season. While the score showed a 7-2 loss, the game was much closer. The team bounced back the next day with a 5-2 victory over the Pettit PeeWees and followed that with one of their strongest games of the season in a

loss to a very talented Elmbrook PeeWee B team. Powered by one powerplay and two shorthanded goals, the Wild closed out the month with a 7-2 victory over the Chicago Chill U12A's, making them undefeated against the state of Illinois.

The team is looking forward to their first road trip of the season in November when they head to Minnesota to defend their All-American Girls tournament title. They'll face tough competition against teams from New York, Arizona, Texas and Minnesota. The girls plan on giving 110% both on the ice and at the Mall of America.

The highlight of October may have occurred during the game against the Pettit PeeWees. Hearing their coach yell to his team "don't let those girls push you around" once again proved that "playing like a girl" doesn't mean what it used to.

## U12B's are Just Warming Up! *by Jerry DeGeorge & Tami Clark*

The Wisconsin Wild U-12 team roster combines seasoned U-12 players with arrivals from the last year's U-10 team and a few new additions. Coach **Jim Goble**, along with his assistants, **Jerry DeGeorge** and **JJ Reifschneider** are working with the girls to form a skilled, cohesive, competitive team. Check the Wisconsin Wild website for game times, locations and game pictures throughout the year. Expect a great season! The 2004-2005 U-12 team: **Sarah Atkielski, Erin Ballinger, Morgan Clark, Jennifer DeGeorge, Molly Geary, Becca Gecks, Mollie Goble, Katie Grudnowski, Irene**

**Hougard, Maggie Ray, Trinity Robinson, Erica Shaffer, Gabrielle Turcott, Jeralise Tylke,** and manager, **Julie Atkielski.**

The U12B season got off to a chilly start with two losses to Wilmette's U12 team. **Molly Geary** scored her first goal as a Wild player. Congrats! The girls got more aggressive the following weekend helping them chalk up two wins. **Katie Grudnowski** held her place at the net and scored 4 goals in each game! **Sarah Atkielski** added two goals and **Erin Ballinger** added her

first career goal as a Wild against Kenosha's U12. **Trinity Robinson** and **Mollie Goble** both assisted. The day before Halloween wasn't scary at all for the U12B's, as they easily beat the Elmbrook Squirt's in an 8-0 victory. Adding to Katie's goals were four goals from **Sarah Atkielski**. Assisting the goals to the net were **Becca Gecks, Sarah Atkielski, Molly Geary** and **Morgan Clark**. Excellent goalie efforts by **Jen DeGeorge** and great defense contributed to the shutout.

## U10 - Making Strides by Lisa Ertl & Kevin Suino

## Birthday Wishes

The U10 Team would like to welcome two new coaches to the Wild organization. **Cyndi Robertson** joins the team as Head Coach. Cyndi has Physical & Elementary Education degrees and a level 5 coaching certification. She was the assistant coach last season for the Wisconsin AAA Development & Midget Major teams. She began coaching hockey in 1999 as head coach of the major midget team in Gillette, WY. She has won State Championship titles two consecutive years with the Pee Wee and Batman teams in Gillette. When not coaching, Cyndi is a USA Hockey & WCHA Referee.

**Amanda Dowdy** joins the U10 as the Assistant Coach. Amanda is familiar with the Wild and the game of hockey since she played numerous years with the Wisconsin Wild AAA. Additionally, Amanda has coached the Junior Wild/Learn to Skate program. Amanda is studying Photography at UW-Milwaukee. Currently, Amanda holds a level 3 coaching certification.

Every journey has its beginning...for the U-10 WILD girl's team, their season began on an autumn Sunday, Oct 23rd at Wilson Park.

Despite the outstanding efforts of goalie,

### U16B by Mary Hawthorne

The Wild U16B team has been practicing hard and gearing up for a busy hockey season. Under the coaching guidance of **Fred Berry** and **Mark Ellena**, the girls are sure to succeed. The girls first home game is October 8<sup>th</sup> vs: Kenosha U19. The girls will finish out the month with games against the Barrington Fillies U16/19 and the Ozaukee U19 teams.

The month of October, the U16B team, played most of the games without a full roster, as some players were finishing their soccer seasons, or recovering from injuries. The girls faced some tough opponents as the season got underway. The girls lost the first game of the season against Kenosha U19 girls 0-2, on October 8. The next weekend they faced Winnetka U16, to lose 1-3. Ozaukee U19 came to the Ponds the weekend of October 23, and the girls took the first win of the season 7-2. Halloween weekend –scary to say the least...the girls lost to Crystal Lake and Sheboygan.

The girls are looking forward to a winning November, as they will face the San Jose CA, U14AAA team, and the DC Diamonds U19 team the first 2 weeks of the month.

**Hannah Koniar**, (21 saves) making her first start in the nets, the SHAW Timberwolves defeated our U10's 8-2. **Sloan Sullivan & Kelsey Kazmierczak** scored the Wild goals. The team then played the Ozaukee Mites, and with goals by **Rosie Turcott, Kelsey Kazmierczak**, 2 by **Jenna Bales**, 2 by **Justine Ertl** and 2 by **Sloan Sullivan** the Wild earned their 1st victory of the season 8-1. The team and parents then headed to the Kohl Center to witness the UW Badger Women's hockey team vs. North Dakota. During the 2nd intermission, our girls had a chance to showcase their hockey talents in front of the partisan crowd. That opportunity was enjoyed by players, coaches, **Bucky Badger** and parents alike.

The U-10 WILD girls closed out the month of October with a trip to West Bend where they faced more tricks than treats in a difficult early season match-up against the Washington County Ice - Squirt B team. Despite three quick goals four minutes into the contest the Wild held them off. **Justine Ertl** had 2 goals, including a penalty shot, and **Hannah Koniar** had 14 saves in the game, including a flashy breakaway glove save keeping the game close. Although the WILD came out on the short end of the 4-2 score, their defense held the Ice off the scoreboard for the final 23:42 of the game.

In hockey, like life, you must walk before you run and the WILD accomplished just that during their first month of the season. This team continues to gel and November will present more chances for growth with eight games on the schedule. Come out and support a group of young ladies having fun while making great strides on the ice!

### U14B by Christine Neirzwicki

The Wisconsin Wild U14B's have officially joined the Girls Central Hockey League (GCHL). The U14B's will play in the "Bantam" division. This division is made up of six (6) teams including Winnetka (IL), Wilmette (IL), Chiefs (Elmhurst, IL), Falcons (Vernon Hills, IL) and Indy Stars (IN).

Each team will play three (3) games versus each opponent. The top four (4) teams will advance to playoffs with a champion being crowned in late February. The Wild play their home opener on Sunday October 9, 2005 at the Ponds versus the Elmhurst Chiefs at 10:30 am

*Ally Noles*

*Jordan Trevisan*

*Jenna Bales*

*Taija Robinson*

*Jamie Ertl*

*Hilary Horvath*

*Sara Reynolds*

*Kaitlin Traverse*

*Nicole Plevak*

*Amy Torgerson*

*Lindsey Cashman*

*Zoe Oskarsson*

*Emma Ray*

*Sarah Atkielski*

*Erica Shaffer*

*Katie McGuire*

*Rachel Gasperetti*

*Kimberly Tess-Wanat*

*Holly Lorms*

*Leah Shapiro*

*Cara Anzivino*

*Alexis Aghjian*

*Rosie Avery*

*Cora Hougard*

*Becca Gecks*

*Jeralise Tylke*

*Devon Ellena*

*Erika Koppa*

*Jenna LeRoy*

*Emily Brienzo*

*Lexy Parenteau*

## November

- 6 - Junior Wild 3:00pm
- 9 - Board Meeting 7:00pm
- 13 - Junior Wild 3:00pm
- 18 - WREATH PICK-UP BEGINS
- 20 - Junior Wild 3:00pm
- 27 - Junior Wild 3:00pm

## Wreath Pick-ups

Check with your team  
manager or contact

**Tom Gasperetti**  
**(414-321-0523).**

**Pick-up begins on Nov. 18th**

The U19AAA team hit the ice in September with a core of returning players and a few new faces. Head Coach **Paul Clarke** joins the team, coming to the Wild after coaching boys high school hockey. He is assisted by Wild veteran coaches **Chris Leng, Cameron Cook** and **Mike Sullivan**. The team once again is managed by **Joyce Shepet**.

Nine girls return to this year's team: **Cori Bassett, Jamie Kivi, Holly Lorms, Michelle McGann, Lexy Parenteau, Kelley Prom, Heather Rossi, Sue Schmitz & Leah Shapiro**.

Moving up from last year's U16AAA team are **Leah Coe, Alyssa Koniar, Maggie Mickelson, Jenny Roeper & Meagn Sudik**.

The Wild would like to welcome (or welcome back) to the team a few new faces: **Amanda Alioto, Lindsey Cashman, Kathleen Claypool, Kirsten Dier, Jody Karnik & Ashley Paulson**.

The season is off to a solid start with a 3rd place finish in the Steven's Point Girls AAA Tournament which featured some top players from Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota. The then went 1-1-1 in the Assabet Girls Showcase in October.

The team is scheduled for 2 more tournaments: Brown University Showcase (Providence, RI) and, of course, The Polar Bear Tournament.

Once again, the Wild U19 team is competing in the Midwest Elite Hockey League (MWEHL) and is scheduled to play in 18 league games. Many of our team's MWEHL league games will be held at the IcePlex in Kenosha. Visit the U19AAA webpages for game schedules, results and other team info.

There's a lot of excitement going on with this team, and these young ladies are forming a team bond that will provide some excellent hockey this season!

**www.wisconsinwild.com**

This newsletter is intended to provide timely information and reading enjoyment to all parties interested in the *Wisconsin Wild Girls' Hockey Teams*. We intend to publish it monthly during the 2004-2005 hockey season. Suggestions and ideas for future issues are welcome and should be directed to Dan Koniar at [dkoniar@wi.r.com](mailto:dkoniar@wi.r.com)

- Special points of interest:**
- Junior Wild & Wild Devs
  - Birthday Wishes
  - Team Reports
  - Where are they now?

OFFICIAL NEWLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN  
WILD GIRLS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

