



WILD THINGS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN WILD GIRLS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

WAHA State Champ U14B's—Mission In Merrill! *By Tom Gasperetti*

The white hot, U14 B team continued their torrid pace during February, scheduled to be a month of challenges for the girls. First up the Appleton U14 team had been the only girls team to beat the Wild to this point, but the Wild proved too much to handle. Out-shooting the Appleton Girls 40-15 en route to a convincing 3-0 win, paced by a hat trick from Kellie Dineen. Kristen Saragnese was like a brick wall in net.

The team traveled to Medford to play in the Badger State Games at the U16 level, opening up against the home team Medford Bull Dogs. Julia Hienz opened the onslaught and the Wild came away with a 13-0 win. Hat tricks by Kellie Dineen and Sarah Gelhaar, Maura Aghjian chipped in 2 tallies, Hilary Horvath continued her hot play with another goal and Sara Reynolds earned a playmaker award. A quirk in the schedule had the Wild playing in the very next game against the Ice Spirits of Madison. Hilary Horvath opened the scoring and the Wild cruised to a 6-0 win. Taking the rest of the day and evening off the girls and parents spent the evening sharing a pot luck dinner and some great conversation. The gold medal game featured the Wild against the Ice Spirits again. Same result, another Wild win this time 7-0. Hilary "Big Goal" Horvath opened the scoring in the first as the Wild assaulted the Ice Spirit goalie with 15 shots while jumping out to a 4-0 lead. Devon Ellena lead the Wild with 3 assists and the Wild out-shot the Ice Spirit 56-8. Kristen Saragnese did not allow a goal all weekend.

Taking a trip to the IcePlex in Pleasant Prairie for the play downs was next on the agenda. Facing the Fond du Lac Thunder in the opener the Wild continued their impressive team oriented game. Brittany Berry (3 goals) opened the scoring and the Wild never looked back in a decisive 10-1 win. Other goal scorers were Kaylee Niestrom, Kellie Dineen (2 goals), Maura Aghjian (2 goals), Devon Ellena and Sarah

Gelhaar. For the trip to see who would be the region 5 rep for the state tournament the Wild took on the Sheboygan U14 team. The Wild were again too much too handle in an impressive 8-1 win.

MERRILL GET READY FOR THE WILD, WE'RE GOING TO STATE!

The Wild ventured to Sauk Prairie for another tournament. in the 16 bracket. The Wild took on the Host Sauk Prairie Flyers. A short handed Wild team proved too powerful for the gracious hosts, and coasted to a 7-0 win. The next opponent would be the Baraboo High JV team. Same result a 7-3 Wild win.

The balanced Wild attack would now take on the Barren Blackhawks, but could not find the back of the net. Final score Barren 3 Wild 0. What a streak though, an 18 game winning streak dating back to before Christmas! On to State!

The 14B's invaded Merrill for the State Tournament. Playing out of the tough lower bracket the Wild matched up with the Region 2 Rep, Central Wisconsin Storm. Asked at the pregame press conference how he expected his team to do Coach Berry informed them, "we're here to win, lets play hockey." One minute into the second period Kellie Dineen opened the scoring with an unassisted goal! The Wild tallied additional goals by Dineen, Rachael Gasperetti and Kaylee Niestrom. Kristen Saragnese was strong in net with 14 saves.

Back to the hotel for a team meal provided by "Parental Catering" then an 8:15 match up with the Appleton Wizards, the Region 3

Rep. Kellie Dineen opened up the scoring again but the penalties kept the game close. With 6 minutes to go in the game the Wild broke out of the zone 2 on 1. Brittany Berry to Kellie Dineen, shot and a goal! Wild 2 Appleton 0 Another shut out for Kristen Saragnese.

Game time! After Coach Berrys' pep talk the Wild took the ice. The River Falls team opened the scoring in the first on a beautiful goal. Finally Devon Ellena got the Wild on the board, blasting a shot passed the River Falls net minder, Erika Koppa with the assist. The third period was back and forth action, the crowd was on pins and needles. The Wild fans started the "Lets Go Wild" cheer and the girls answered with a goal with 5 minutes left unassisted by Kellie Dineen! The Wild tightened its smothering defense and with two and a half minutes left had to kill off a body checking penalty. Time out Wild. The coaches were calming down the excited Wild bunch for the final minutes. River Falls was keeping the pressure on the Wild but were unable to get anything past Kristen Saragnese, even with a 6 on 4 advantage! Penalty over, 30 seconds left! With 3 defense and 2 wingers on the ice the Wild was able to keep River Falls from even getting a "sniff" of the net. Final horn, Wild wins! **STATE CHAMPS!** After a sincere handshake the Wild embraced each other realizing their goal, until the medal ceremony. Then as one, proceeded to center ice to claim their championship trophy! Our girls had the toughest road to the finals, rose to the occasion, and grasped their opportunity! Great job girls, you deserved it! **Mission in Merrill accomplished!!**

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www.wisconsinwild.com

The month of February 2005 was a quiet month for the Wild U19AAA Girls team. The highlight of the month was the first weekend of the month February 5-6th when Shannon Herrick added two shut-outs to her record, first beating TI 5-0 and the next day doing the same thing to the Capitols on their ice with a 7-0 win. It was especially good for the psyche of the team as the girls had not been successful yet this season in overcoming the Capitols despite outshooting them. Coaches Cameron Cook and Chris Leng have been proud of their accomplishments. Subsequently the girls faced some less challenging competition by playing the Powerade Senior Women's A

team several times as well as our U19B Wild team. We thank them for playing us as it gave the coaches opportunity to work on specific skills and team work. Then the girls had to face dichotomies in speed of play by meeting Shattuck St. Mary's and the Kenosha Midget Minor Boys team. It reminded us of what we had to get ready for to compete in the playdowns in March. The girls are ready to play the Capitols and the Wisconsin Elites at the State finals in Madison on the second weekend in March. Hopefully they will advance to the regional finals and play the likely contenders: CYA the next weekend. Regionals will take place at the Capitol Ice in Middleton as well. The girls continue to prepare them-

selves for college opportunities as several have met with coaches and visited campuses. Justine Pellman has visited Elimira College in New York, Marie Michelle Poirier is looking at the University of North Dakota, Shannon Herrick had an overnight stay at St. Olaf College. Annie Pierce has visited Gustavus Adolfus, Augsburg and Concordia Colleges. The end of February saw Bre Bian returning to the ice with her smile and enthusiasm being welcomed back. She finished the month big by scoring the last goal of the month against the Powerade with a nice top shelf wrist shot.

CALENDAR

March

11-13 –Tier I State Playoffs
@Capitol Ice, Madison

18-20 –Tier I Regionals
@Capitol Ice

April/May

April 30-May 1 –USA Hockey
Central District Development
Camp Tryouts @ Capitol Ice
(go to www.wahahockey.com)

May 14-15, 21-22 -Wild Spring
Clinic & AAA Tryouts

May 22 -3:30p Alumnae Game

OBTW (*Oh, by the way...*)

With the end of the season fast approaching it is time to return all hockey videos and books that have been checked out. If you have checked out any of these items please contact Joyce Shepet at 262-695-2981 or at Jshepet@aol.com to make arrangements to return them.

Wild Summer Ice

Summer Skills

& Scrimmage Sessions

We have booked ice for our summer skills & scrimmage sessions for beginners through High School age players.

The program begins on **Thursday June 2 and runs thru August 4, 2005** every Thursday from 5:00-9:30pm at Eble Park Ice Arena.

Groups will be formed based on skill level & experience.

Registration forms will be available on the Wild Website & will be E-mailed to each team manager soon. Contact: Tom LaCombe with questions.

Spring Clinic

&

AAA Tryouts

Mark Your Calendars!

Wisconsin Wild

Spring Clinic

&

AAA Tryouts

for U12/U14/U16/U19

May 14/15

& May 21/22.

Details to follow.

WILD HONORS

Wild Alumna **Amanda Bockmann**, a freshman at Augsburg, has won the "**Rookie Goalie of the Year**" award in the MIAC Conference! What a great achievement from a great individual. E-mail her at bockmann@augsborg.edu, and let her know how proud we are of her.

Also,... Wild Alumna **Kelly Crandall**, a sophomore at Gustavus Adolphus, was named to the **MIAC All-Conference Team**.

And... Wild Alumna **Jill Luebke**, a Junior at Bemidji State, was named to the **WCHA All-Academic Team**

Congratulations, Ladies!

Our Jr. Wild Winter session ended with a bang. Thirty-four happily wonderful young girls are on their way to becoming fabulous Wisconsin Wild Hockey players. Great progress has been made by all. So many of these skaters are interested in a Spring session that we look to start one at the beginning of April. We will be emphasizing more of the specific hockey skills because our coaches feel many of these girls will be ready to skate with a team next year. It goes without saying that their progress is due in great part to our wonderful coaches that work with them weekly on the ice. Our thanks goes out to Coaches MacKenzie, LaCombe, Hawthorn, Sullivan, Goble, fathers Neil Traverse, Marco Boucher, and John Walsh. A special thanks to our Player-coaches from our U-19 Team Annie Pierce, Leah Shapiro, Marie-Michelle Poirer, Sue Schmitz and many other U-16, U-14, and

U-12 players. Lastly but certainly not leastly (not probably a real word but) thanks to all the great parents that shared their girls with us each Sunday. You now have some idea of how great it is to watch young girls grow in skill and confidence. We hope you all have enjoyed being Wild.

“Help Wanted”

The Wisconsin Wild is looking for new Board Members for next year. Any organization runs best with some “new blood”, and we want people to step forward. Contact Joe McGann if you are interested.

U14AAA— by Donna Rogers

Love was in the air...the “**Love of Hockey**”, that is, over the February Valentines weekend, as the MEHL Division Playoffs took over the Iceplex. The top four teams in the U14AAA division; Team Illinois, CYA, Wisconsin Wild and Victory Honda paired off and ironically ended the Playoffs in the same standings that they came in with.

Our first game against CYA was nothing short of exciting! As usual, these two teams battled head to head in an evenly matched game down to the final buzzer. The Wild took control in the first period putting their first goal on the board at the 10:00min. mark. After surviving an intense penalty kill, the Wild delivered their second goal into the net with 1:36 to go in the 1st period. An unfortunate bobble off our goalies’ back shoulder gave CYA a lucky goal with .29 sec. left in the 1st. CYA dodged a bullet as the Wild scored early in the second period, only to have the goal *denied* with a player in the crease. Shortly after, CYA tied it up 2-2 with 4:03 left in the 2nd period. Ending the 2nd period and going into the 3rd period, the Wild had a Powerplay advantage, but CYA handled the pressure well. With 8:39 left in the game, CYA scored on a Powerplay to take the lead 3-2. CYA got called for interference, and the Wild seized the opportunity to tie it up 3-3 with 5:16 to go. CYA raised their intensity up a notch, but the Wild went right along with them. CYA sent rapid-fire shots on goal but our Goalie staved off the multiple attack! The Wild stamped down the ice to give it back at them. Then another surge by CYA and the

goalie saved us again with .48 and .13 seconds to go! The game went into a 14:00 minute Sudden Death Overtime and CYA went for the kill with 13:09 still on the clock. The Wild took a tough one on the chin, losing 4 – 3. That same day, TI defeated Victory Honda to earn their shot at the Championship.

An early drive back to Kenosha for the second game (7am!) found us vying for 3rd place, taking on Victory Honda. The Wild had better results today. The game was even with no score until late in the 3rd period, when the Wild took a shot and then followed up on the rebound to score with 4:52 to go in the game. The Wild had to outlast a penalty kill and the last minute and a half, as Victory Honda pulled their goalie to challenge us 6 on 4. We continued to dominate the game, and held on to the 1 – 0 victory! Following our game, CYA played TI for the Championship and TI pulled the rug out from under them taking home 1st place.

State is now on the minds of our team as we diligently prepare to meet up with the Madison Capitols for the best 2 out of 3 decision on March 11-13, 2005. Coaches Tom LaCombe and Al MacKenzie have thoughts about this match up...

Tom LaCombe said, “Our team has enjoyed a successful year to this point. Our players have worked extremely hard, faced some adversity & continue to improve. We need to maintain our focus over the next two weeks as we will be facing a talented Madison team in their home rink for State”.

Birthday Wishes

Molli Goble

Ellie Buebendorf

Hayley Siira

Suzanne McGann

Brittany Carlson

Katie Llaurado

Meagan Wanecke

Abbie Hawthorne

Maggie Mickelson

Christine Sonnentag

Meagan Sudik

Breanne Bian

Justine Pellman

Board of Directors

President—Joe McGann

VP On Ice—Bill Pearce

VP Off Ice—Tom Gasperetti

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Dir. Of College Relations—Scott Roeper

Director At Large—Jeff Hawthorne

Jr. Wild Development—Kelly Lorms

“CONFIDENCE is the invisible cement that binds great teams together!” “Respect every team...fear none!” GO GET ‘EM WILD

U12B “Bounce” – by Tami Trevisan

This February, the girls have bounced back and forth between wins and losses, almost evenly, starting out with a disappointing game against Wilmette 12UB in which they lost 3 – 1. It would seem that the girls have quite distaste for the losses as it appears that they come back fighting mad and win the next game, like they did the very next day as they skated over the SHAW Squirt D team to an impressive 10 – 2 win.

Sadly, their remarkable victory didn't carry them through their first playdown game against Beaver Dam U12 and they suffered a very frustrating 2 – 4 defeat, knocking them out of contention for the State Tournament. Again, their frustration clearly spurred them on the next week to beat the WI Ice Spirit U12 with a shut-out score of 5 – 0.

In a nice break from routine, the girls jumped into the Washington County Tournament with an extraordinary 10 – 2 win against Sauk

U10 – Wild Happenings by Lisa Ertl

The U10 girls started February with a 2-1 victory over Shaw Mite B on Feb. 5th. The first goal was scored by Hannah Koniar assisted by Morgan Clark. The winning goal was scored by Justine Ertl with an assist by Trinity Robinson. Jennifer DeGeorge had a great game in the net with 23 saves. The balance of the month was both exciting and challenging for the girls.

On Feb. 12th versus Waukesha Mite C White, the girls lost 7-0. DeGeorge provided 27 saves. Playdowns in Kenosha were held on Feb. 13 with the U10 losing 6-0 against Winter Club. Kelsey Kazmierczak had 27 saves in the net as goalie. On Feb 19th, the girls tied the DePere Mite C Maple Leafs in DePere 2-2. Rosie Avery scored the first goal unassisted. Hannah Koniar scored the final goal with an assist from Jenna Bales.

Prairie U14. Later that afternoon, they were unfortunately outplayed by the Marinette/Menomonee Thunder U12, losing 1 – 9.

Perhaps that gave the girls the ultimate motivation that incited what happened next, which was absolutely amazing! It is really the only way to describe the way the girls played on Sunday as they battled the Winter Club U12 Wildcats. They may have only been playing for third place, but the feel in the stands, and the fervor of play held the kind of excitement typically reserved for championship games of the highest level. The girls really showed what they're made of and thanks to some nice goaltending by Shelly Smith and goals from Tajia Robinson and Alysa Stemberger, they out played and shut out the Wildcats 2 – 0. This dramatic win earned them a third place trophy and culminated in a spectacular celebration that had gloves flying and turned most of our girls into instant red-heads!! And most astonishing to the girls was that Coach Mary and Coach Mike actually allowed shouting in the locker room!! Great job Ladies!! Keep up the good work. Let's show 'em what we got in the upcoming Elmbrook Squirt B and Arrowhead Girls U12 Tournaments!!

The girls played Winter Club on Feb. 20th with a 6-2 loss. Gabrielle Turcott put the puck in the net with an assist from Rosie Avery. Feb. 26th found the girls matched against Elmbrook Mite B. Even though the game ended in a 7-3 loss, the girls showed that they came ready to play. Jeralise Tylke scored the 1st goal followed by a goal from Kelsey Kazmierczak. Morgan Clark made the 3rd and final goal of the game for the Wild. The last game of the month ended with a 7-0 loss to the DC Diamonds in Madison. Jennifer DeGeorge had 42 saves in the defeat.

The girls continue to improve both their skating and puck handling skills on the ice. The U10 Team would like to wish all the Wild Teams good luck in the state finals!

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

- Special points of interest:**
- U14B's State Bound
 - Birthday Wishes
 - Wild Clinic & Summer Ice

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