



WILD THINGS

OFFICIAL NEWLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN WILD GIRLS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

The DEVAS - "We're Playing Hockey!" *By Dan Koniar*

Can anyone remember their 1st hockey practice with a team? Do you remember the the thrill our suiting up for your team's 1st game? How about the excitement of touching the puck in a game, or scoring that 1st goal? Have we forgotten?

Well, if you have, or you care to revisit those feelings again, come see our Wild Devas play their favorite sport! One look at the faces of our future stars and you'll re-live every one of those "firsts!" These girls are playing hockey. They're playing as a team. They're playing because they LOVE to play. They play to learn, and they're learning to win. They lose with smiles as they handled the puck, took a shot, or just played hard!

Nothing "rag-tag" about this team. The Devas have played an assortment of Mite and Mini-Mite teams from the area, facing boys and girls with a wide range of skills.

Despite ending up on the short end of a 12-0 score versus the Waukesha White mini-mite team, these young ladies never quit, as we watched them play hard, move the puck and experience some real head-on competition. Wild Goalie **Hal-lie Traverse** had her hands

full as 2 speedsters crashed the net time after time. However, our girls never let down, and as each shift came off the ice, the coaches were met with attentive faces wanting to learn, and smiles with every comment and instruction. The 2nd "game" of the day was a full-ice scrimmage with the Elmbrook Mite C team, and a new concept - Offsides! Although the final score favored Elmbrook 7-2, we saw our tired young ladies work the puck and never quit. **Sydney Weinreich** scored both Wild goals, the 1st with an assist from **Makenna Stelpflug**, and **Jordan Trevisan's** first time in goal kept her busy as she had to "learn as you go," yet made great save after great save!

In game 3 we found out that skating hard ALL THE TIME is the key to winning! In a well played game our Wild Devas scored NINE goals to the Waukesha Mini-Mite Gold team's 4 goals. **Ally Noles** tended the nets in a great effort making many wonderful saves. **Annie Ertz** had a Hat Trick (3 goals), **Jessica Foley** scored twice, and additional goals were added by **Sydney Weinreich**, **Makenna Stelpflug** & **Cara Anzivino!** Thanks to **Tealin Robinson** from our U10 team for helping us out with a goal, as well!

Our Devas played their 4th game quite well beating the Waukesha Black Mini-mite team 7-3. They showed good positioning and scrambling for pucks through the whole game. Scoring for our girls included on a couple of breakaways by **MaKenna Stelpflug** and **Sydney Weinreich**, and **Isabel Pesci** was able to pick up two goals by being in position and getting two rebounds!

The month closed out on a high note, despite the 11-7 loss to the Waukesha Gold Mini-Mite team in the 5th game. Our Wild Devas showed more improvement with every minute on the ice! This game featured good coverage in front of the Waukesha goal with our girls working hard for the puck, however Waukesha took advantage of their speed and executed numerous breakaways, which just "gassed" our team. **MaKenna Stelpflug** hustled for 6 goals - mainly on breakaways of our own, or on 1-on-1's. **Isabel Pesci** contributed with a goal on an assist by **Annie Ertz**.

Visit the Devas' webpages for game reports, photos and upcoming schedule information, and come out as remember what it's like!

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U16AAA *by Angela Zevnik & Michelle LaCombe*

The 16's entered our Minnesota league weekend, in November, low in the standings, with the goal being to win every game we played. Sure enough with hard work and contribution from the entire team we did exactly that. We played four games against teams-Colorado, Belle Tire, Montgomery, and Shattuck. We were fortunate to score quite a few goals and we had outstanding performances by both goaltenders. The team is now tied for fourth place in a very strong and competitive MWEHL division. The team

had been practicing very well recently, and we are preparing for tough competition from other league opponents in the weeks to come; and looking forward to the Polar Bear Tournament in Connecticut over the Holiday break.

****Remember ... all U16AAA players are invited to the Wild Alumnae Holiday Party, December 22nd, 5:30pm at the Venice Club in Brookfield. Come visit with former Wild players over pizza and soda! Contact Cindi Dowdy with any questions.*

GOALIE SKILLS

Guided by Goalie Coach Steve Boll, and assisted by Coach Scott Noles, these are valuable opportunities for current goalies and our young goalie prospects to acquire many of the tools for success.

The Next Session:

JANUARY 12th 6:40pm

ALL Goalies should attend these sessions!

U12AAA *By John Zolinski*

November was a busy month for the Wild U12 AAA's with 8 games against a variety of competition. The month began with a trio of rematches, starting with a come from behind victory over the Pettit Pee Wee's. The win gave them a sweep of the 2 game series. They next faced the Elmbrook Pee Wee B's who had defeated the Wild 5-1 just two weeks earlier. While the team suffered a loss, the 5-4 score showed the progress the team has made. That improvement continued when they faced the Wild 14B's. Displaying great passing and teamwork, the 12 AAA's avenged an earlier loss with a 5-2 victory.

Next the team headed to Minnesota

for their first tournament of the year, the All-American Girls. In between watching the new Harry Potter movie, bowling and shopping for gifts for Coach Bob, the team fit in some incredibly good hockey. A late schedule change put the Wild up against the eventual tournament champions, Inver Grove Heights, in their first game. The hard fought game was scoreless mid way through the third period. A picture perfect goal off a face-off with 4 minutes to go gave Inver Grove a 1-0 lead. They added an empty netter in the last minute to hand the Wild a disappointing 2-0 loss. The next day the team dominated the team from Irondale, MN, outshooting them by a 3 to 1 margin.

Unfortunately, the Irondale goaltender was hot and the Wild came up just short, 3-2. Obviously inspired by Coach Bob's Saturday night concert, the team came back from a 3 goal deficit on Sunday morning to defeat a very physical Forest Lake, MN team, 5-3.

The team finished up the month doing what women do best – dominating men. A 4-2 win over Waukesha Pee Wee D, followed by 4-1 victory over Elmbrook PeeWee C, raised the team's record to an even .500. The team plans on giving extra effort on the ice in December so Santa brings them what every pre-teen female hockey player wants – a lifesize poster of Orlando Bloom.

U12B - *by Jerry DeGeorge*

The Wild U12B team won two out of four regularly scheduled games in November. On 11/5, they lost 2-6 with 27 saves by goalie, **Jen DeGeorge**, and goals by **Sarah Atkielski** and **Morgan Clark**. On 11/6, the girls won 7-1 with goals by **Molly Goble**, **Sarah Atkielski** and a record 5 goals by **Morgan Clark**. **Erin Ballinger** and **Katie Grudnowski** assisted. On 11/12, the girls lost in Kenosha 4-6. Two goals by **Sarah Atkielski**, **Katie Grudnowski** and **Morgan Clark** also scored. Assisting were

Erica Shaffer, **Katie Grudnowski** and **Irene Hougard**. The loss fueled the team to skate hard on Sunday, 11/13 against Winter Club and the Wild secured their first win in this match up by a narrow margin, 1-0. **Jen DeGeorge** earned the shut out with 18 saves and **Sarah Atkielski** scored the goal.

The team played their first tournament this season 11/19-20 in Fond du Lac. The first game ended in a 1-4 loss, with **Jeralise Tylke** scoring the goal. The

second game, Winter Club evened the tally with a 0-1 victory over the Wild girls. The final game **Jen DeGeorge** earned another shut out and her teammates scored six goals; two by **Molly Geary**, two by **Morgan Clark**, **Jeralise Tylke** and **Molly Goble** scored one each with assists by **Sarah Atkielski**, **Molly Goble** and **Gabby Turcott**. The girls look forward to a full December beginning with 3 games the first weekend.

U10 — "Brand Of One" by Kevin Suino

Birthday Wishes

The U-10 Wild girl's finished the month of November with a 5-0 record. The WILD collected wins against the Waukesha Mite C – Gold; away and home victories against the DC Diamonds; and defeated the Elm-brook Mite B, and Waukesha Mite C - White teams.

Scoring goals for the WILD in November were **Kelsey Kazmierczak**, **Sloan Sullivan**, **Ellie Bueendorf**, **Rosie Avery**, **Jessica Foley**, **Francesca Suino**, **Emma Ray**, and **Justine Ertl**. Adding assists were **Jessica Foley**, **Francesca Suino**, **Emma Ray**, **Alexis Aghjian**, **Jenna Bales**, and **Hannah Koniar**.

As the U-10 WILD continue to develop their hockey skills, so do their opponents – as three of the five wins in November were

mere one goal victories. It all starts in goal, where **Hannah Koniar** (2 wins) and **Jenna Bales** (3 wins) combined to allow a total of 12 goals to be scored in the month (2.4 goals / game) while stopping 44 shots.

But you can't win if you don't play good team defense and that group was led by the play of returning players **Rosie Avery**, **Justine Ertl**, and **Emma Ray**; and first year player **Alexis Aghjian**.

Win or lose, you play as one. One defense, one offense, one game at a time. December should provide more chances for team play with six games currently scheduled. Come out and support the U-10 Wild "*brand of one*".

Katie Grudnowski

Jessie Nelson

Morgan Hollowell

Erin LeRoy

Corinne Nierzwicki

Amanda Alioto

Alyssa Koniar

Kelley Prom

U16B by Mary Hawthorne

The U16B team faced the San Jose Sharks 14AAA November 3. The girls took the win, by one point. Scoring for the Wild were Megan Gloor, Brittany Berry, and Sara Reynolds. Assists were made by Emma Pesci and Sarah Gelhaar. November 5, the girls traveled to Glacier Rink in Vernon Hills to play the Wilmette U16 Girls team. Our girls took the win 2-1. Goalie, Kristen Saragnese saved 20 shots on the net.

Sunday November 6th brought on the San Jose team, again. The teams left with a tie 3-3. Outstanding goaltending by both Jenna LeRoy and Kristen Saragnese.

The next weekend took the girls to Madison for a game against the DC Diamonds Girls U19 team. The girls took the win, 7-4. Scoring for the Wild was Megan Gloor, Suzanne McGann, Devon Ellena (2), Abbie Hawthorne, Hillary Horvath, and Sarah Gelhaar. Great assists were made by Abbie Hawthorne (2), Megan Gloor(3), Brittany Berry(2) and Suzanne McGann. Key defensive players Kaitlin Traverse and Erika Koppa made for a top notch win!!

December the girls will face some new competition: Barrington Fillies Girls U19 December 3, Kenosha U16 December 4, Green Bay's U19 Girls December 11.

November was a very successful month for the U14B team. The team compiled a record of 3 - 2 - 1 during the month.

The highlight of the month was the 2nd place finish at the Fond du Lac "Thunder on Ice" U14 tournament on November 19 & 20. The team defeated the Elmhurst (IL) Chiefs in round one – 7 to 1 & then defeated the D.C. Diamonds 6 to 0 in round two to advance to the Championship game.

In the finals on Sunday, the team played River Falls (WI) for the championship. Unfortunately, they came up on the short end of the stick losing 3 to 0. The team played extremely well but could not get the puck in the net. River Falls will be a touch opponent and hopefully the teams will meet again later this year at the State tournament.

In addition to the tournament finish, the team also defeated local rival Arrowhead – 3 to 1 and had a come from behind tie (2 to 2) against Beaver Dam on Thanksgiving weekend.

Although the team did not play any GCHL games in November, they currently are in 3rd place with six (6) points

U14B by Christine Neirzwicki

trailing Wilmette (IL) with ten (10) points & Highland Park (IL) with eight (8) points. The team will play Highland Park on December 11 and hope to pull even in the standings. Check-out all the GCHL action at: www.usahockey.com/girls_central_/main_site/main/home/

CALENDAR

December

4 - Junior Wild 3:00pm

11 - Junior Wild 3:00pm

14 - Board Meeting 7:00pm

18 - Junior Wild 3:00pm

22 - Alumnae Christmas Party

January

12 - Goalie Skills 6:40pm

Success can't always be measured by wins and losses.

The Wild started off November with back-to-back wins over San Jose (3-2, 6-1) and a 1-1 tie with TI before hitting the road for two long weekends of hockey. In Minnesota the Wild went 1-2-1 in league play, beating Lansing 3-0, tying NAHA 1-1, and losing to Shattuck St. Mary's 1-5 and Minnesota Thoroughbreds 1-2.

Over Thanksgiving the Wild traveled to Providence to play in the Digit Murphy showcase and left with an 0-4-0 record. The showcase featured teams from the United States and Canada, all invited specially by Coach Murphy. The Wild faced 4 Canadian teams: Mississauga, Bluewater, Stonet Creek and Pacific Steelers.

For the month the Wild were 3-6-2, scoring 19 goals and giving up 23. The record year-to-date is 14-8-5 overall and 4-2-4 in the MWEHL American Division. They are currently in 3rd place, battling for the top spot with Shattuck St. Mary's and the Minnesota Thoroughbreds.

Despite a bit of a scoring drought, the team boasts only 11 Goals Against in 11 league games, and has the least penalty

minutes in their division.

The Wild faces 4 MWEHL opponents in December, including a league weekend at the Kenosha IcePlex rinks on the 16th & 17th.

Then it's off to Connecticut for the annual Polar Bear Tournament. The Wild has been seeded in the same division as last year's tournament champions and the team that defeated the Wild in the championship game, Les Cheminot. They are also slated to play the 2005 USA Hockey Nationals finalists, the Syracuse Stars. This will be a great challenge, and an opportunity to showcase their hockey skills to the top colleges in North America.

As more of our young women make their plans for college and the possibilities to continue to play hockey are presented to them, we realize that the success of this team goes well beyond the scoreboard. If you don't believe it, just ask a Wild Alumna.

Keep working hard, put the puck in the back of the net, and be successful in the league and at Polar Bear!

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:

- *Goalie Skills*
- *Team Reports*
- *Birthday Wishes*
- *Wild Devas*

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