



# WILD THINGS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN WILD GIRLS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wisconsin Wild Alumnae Game

Mark your calendars for this exciting event! At **3:00pm on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**, a hockey game, featuring Wisconsin Wild alumnae, including its most recent program graduates (our high school seniors), will take place at The Ponds of Brookfield.

Since 2001, over 50 of our graduates have gone on to represent the Wild at 32 women's college hockey programs. Ten more Wild players will join the alumnae ranks this year. We will come together to celebrate this success and to welcome home our girls. In the process, we will also pay tribute to **Justine Pellmann** by playing the game in her name.

**Justine Pellmann** was a recent graduate of the Wild program when she tragically died in a car accident on June 1, 2005. Justine was in the midst of making her dream of playing college hockey come true. She was heavily recruited by several colleges and had decided to go to school and play hockey for Elmira College in New York. Her death cut short the dream for her, but we are proud to memorialize Justine's legacy of hard work, determination, and strength of character. We want and need your help in this effort!

In addition to the game itself, there will also be a silent auction with some very exciting items, a bake sale, a "Skate with Alumnae" for 5-12 year old girls, and a reception to greet our alumnae and an opportunity to talk to them about their college experiences.

In order to make this a great success, we need your help! Although the alumnae and their families will be doing most of the work for the event, we hope that current players and families will consider helping us by:

**1) The very first thing we need is people to solicit local businesses for donation.** Please contact **Cindi Dowdy** as soon as possible if you are willing to help us in this way. It will only take one day of your time and you can pair up with a friend if you like. Because this is such an important facet of the event, if you help us with this, we will give you a *complimentary game admission*.

**2) Donating:**

Silent auction items (anything from hockey related items, to donations from local businesses, to babysitting services, to vacation home stays) – just about anything goes baked goods for bake sale

**3) Giving your time the day of the event** – we need: game timekeeper, announcer, ticket sellers, bake sale sellers, silent auction monitors

**4) BEING THERE!** We sincerely hope you will be there to welcome our alumnae back and help us enjoy this event.

Please contact **Cindi Dowdy** at [cindidowdy@wi.rh.com](mailto:cindidowdy@wi.rh.com) or 262-784-1849 to offer your help.

### CALENDAR

#### MAY

19-20 - AAA Tryouts & Tier II Team Registration

20 - WI Wild Alumnae Game 3:00pm

#### JUNE

14 - Summer Skills

21 - Summer Skills

28 - Summer Skills

#### JULY

12 - Summer Skills

19 - Summer Skills

26 - Summer Skills

#### AUGUST

2 - Summer Skills

9 - Summer Skills

16 - Summer Skills

### **Attention Players!**

**AAA Tryouts & Tier II Team**

**Registrations ("B-teams")**

**will be held on May 19-20**

***Check the Website for more info!***

### **Board of Directors**

President—Joe McGann

VP On Ice—Tom LaCombe

VP Off Ice—Tom Gasperetti

Secretary/Treasurer—Susan Welz

Director At Large—Kevin Suino

Jr. Wild Development—Neil Traverse

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**[www.wisconsinwild.com](http://www.wisconsinwild.com)**

## U14AAA Win Big Apple Tourney - *by Christine Nierzwicki*

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Super Bowl Sunday was not only super for the Indianapolis Colts; it was also super for the U14 team as they defeated Apple Valley 2-1 to win the Big Apple tournament. The team also defeated Duluth 5-2 and lost to Faribault 3-4 the previous day. They ended the round-robin tourney with 20 points edging out Duluth & Faribault which tied for second with 19 points.

Overall, the team played extremely well in January & February compiling

a record of 7-10-1 including victories over Fond du Lac, Chicago Chill, Highland Park, and Wilmette. Although, the team finished the MWEHL with a 2-18 record, their level of play improved over the course of the season.

The U14's met their rival Madison Capitols in the State Tournament on March 10 in Fond du Lac for a best-of-three series. Unfortunately, the team came out flat in the opener and

trailed 4-0 after the first period. The ladies never got their groove and the game ended 7-0. However, the girls were a different team in the night cap allowing only one goal in the first two periods until Madison scored an empty netter with 17 seconds to go to win 2-0. Although, the result was not what they wanted, it was a valiant effort and the team definitely played one of their best games of the season.

## U16AAA - *by Mary Hawthorne*

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The U16AAA team ended their season state weekend March 9-12. The team faced the Madison Capitols on March 9, losing 4-0. Saturday brought on the 2<sup>nd</sup> game of the tournament against Team WI. The girls clinched the win

4-1. Sunday the girls faced the Madison Capitols. The girls went into the third period with a tie game 2-2, battling the Capitols with everything they had. The Capitols came out and scored 2 goals, "knocking the wind

out of our sails." One more empty netter by the Capitols brought the score to 5-2. The girls should be proud of themselves for a great game and a great season. The U16 ended the season with an overall record of 30 wins, 21 losses and 8 ties.

## U12 White - *By Tami Clark*

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### ***Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much***

Rarely can you look at a team's record and learn anything about the team.

This is truly the case with the Wisconsin Wild U12 White team. Consisting mainly of girls younger than their bracket, the Wild girls battled all year against U12 teams. Even when look-

ing into the eyes of what would appear to be giants, they were not intimidated. This determination benefited us when the puck was dropped against the Shaw Boys. Wins are especially gratifying when they come against boys!

Throughout the year, our girls could be spotted encouraging one another. After any game you could step into the locker room and be greeted by smiles and smelly breezers. It's apparent that the

hockey record isn't what the girls remember. What they remember are the friendships, tournaments, and lots of laughs. Our team would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to Steve Stelpflug for managing the U12 White team this year and to Coach Joe Anzivino for giving our daughters a sense of confidence on the ice – no matter the size of the opponent.

## U12AAA - *By Bob Carver*

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Since we last wrote at the end of December, the U12AAA team has finished the season with a 11-11-3 record from the end of December through the WI AAA state tournament.

The 12AAAs spent two full weekends at highly competitive tournaments in Detroit in the months of January and February. Skating a bit short handed in both tournaments, but aided by the addition of U12 level skater Allie Mueller, the 12AAAs game some good

competition a run for their money.

While we lost all four (4) games at the Golden Blade tournament, the 12AAA made a very respectable showing against Team Illinois (the eventual Central District Champion), losing a closely fought 4-0 game that was closer than the score indicated.

At the subsequent North American Friendship Tournament, the 12AAAs dispatched with the Madison Capitols

12A team 6-2 and 2-1 in what was more likely a representation of what the state tournament should have been. Disappointingly, the 12AAAs could not recreate that magic at the state tournament and lost to the Caps 1-0 and 4-1 to relinquish the state title for the second year in a row.

Overall the 12AAAs finished with a respectable 27-18-4 record this year against some varied competition.

## U12 Red — “Seeing Red” - *by Kevin Suino*

In hockey, like life, it's not how you start...its how you finish. The Wild U12 Red team finished the second half of the 2006-07 season in style - winning the consolation trophy at the Elm-brook Squirt B tourney. Earlier, during January, the U12 Red team took home second place finishes in the Reedsburg tournament and the Badger State Games.

Playing a competitive second half schedule, the U12 Red team earned a 7-11 record. For the season, the ladies

finished with a very respectable record of 16-20.

The defense collected four shut outs during the season. In goal, Kori Riffle faced nearly twenty shots per game and stood tall. Providing solid defensive help in front and keeping the games close were: Katie Weber, Becca Gecks, Trinity Robinson, Jessica Foley, Justine Ertl, Irene Hougard, and Hannah Koniar.

The team scored a total of 120 goals for the season. While getting shut out three

times during the first half, the Wild was shut out only once during the second half. Players skating on offense during much of the season included: Molly Geary, Erin Ballinger, Katie Grudnowski, Kelsey Kazmeirczak, Alexis Aghjian, Sloan Sullivan, Sydney Weinrich, and Francesca Suino.

Thanks to Coaches Dan Brienzo, Brian Geary, and Stan Riffle for molding these sixteen ladies into a lean, mean, skating machine – one that had our opponents seeing red!

## U10 - *by Ken Weinreich*

The U10's started the second half of the season a much improved team from the first half of the year. One of our best played games occurred on January 14 and resulted in a 4-2 win against Winter Club Mite B Blue. We had lost to them earlier in the year 5-4 in a heartbreaker. This game was just as evenly matched but the difference was our girls had improved their back checking and defense and the hard work paid off with a victory. The rest of the month we played several very good games even though we had a couple of close losses against Waukesha.

February started with a very close and exciting game against the Falcons U10 team from Lake Forest. It ended in a very hard fought 2-2 tie. The girls gave everything they had trying to pull out a win and there were several chances in the waning minutes, but we just couldn't put the game winner away. The next two weeks we celebrated two wins over Waukesha. The scoring that was missing in the beginning of the year was now coming in a flourish.

March was the highlight of the year for the team with a trip to the State tournament in Wausau. The Wild U10 girls finished 7th. On Saturday, we had two tough losses to Beloit and New Richmond. The girls were determined to come away from the tournament with a win, and Sunday's dramatic *come from behind overtime victory* against the Baldwin Blackhawks left them in a

pile of bodies at center ice feeling like they had just won a national title!

The girls came out flying in the first period and put pressure on the Blackhawks early. We had some chances with a couple of shots that just missed the net. We killed off the first of back-to-back penalties, but the Blackhawks were able to convert for a 1-0 lead. At the 3:06 mark of the 2nd, **Trinity Robinson** tied it for the Wild after a lot of hard work by the entire team. The game turned back into a see-saw battle for the next 7 minutes. With 2 minutes left in the period, Baldwin was able to convert the go ahead goal. At the end of two, Blackhawks 2 Wild 1.

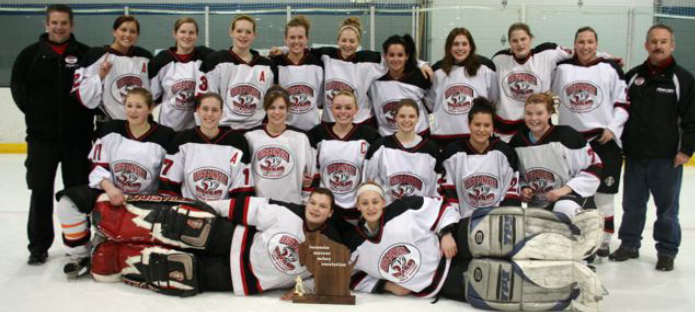
The third period started with the Blackhawks scoring at the :16 second mark to put us behind 3-1. Apparently it just fired up our girls because they responded with their hardest work of the tournament. Two minutes later, **Sloan Sullivan** scored with assists from **Francesca Suino** and **Irene Hougard** to make it 3-2. The girls were not done yet. Three minutes later, **Trinity Robinson** notched the tying goal, assisted by **Sloan Sullivan** and **Lisa Browne**. Both teams knuckled down for the remainder of the period for some terrific hockey. Every one of our players played a part in a hard fought offensive and defensive effort. **Rachel Hafner** came up with some great saves down the stretch and ended up with **17** for the game. It was tied at the end of regula-

tion, 3-3.

Overtime began with both teams tense and not wanting to make a mistake. Finally Baldwin made one. They were called for a roughing penalty 3:23 into OT. Then, 17 seconds into our power play they were called for tripping. With a 5 on 3, the Wild dominated the play, and less than a minute later, **Sloan Sullivan** put away the game winner for the Wild and the celebration began!

This win would not have been possible without those players who did not make the score sheet but won the battles in the corners, kept it in the zone, made the great passes, clearing attempts and poke checks. Hats off to **Meg Selkey, Pamela Burbach, Alyssa Boltik, Jessica Malloy, Hannah Koniar, Mackenzie Walker, Annie Ertz, Jena Passineau, Peyton Weinreich, and Ally Noles**.

Our final game of the year was on March 10th against Washington County Mite B. Not only did we win the game by a convincing score, but **Peyton Weinreich** and **Alyssa Boltik** both netted hat tricks! Alyssa's dad Al had said all season that if his daughter got a hat trick he would shave his head. She had come close before, but nailed it (and him) in the final game. The official shearing will happen at our team party on the 24th! Check out the U10 home page for pictures!



## **Wisconsin Wild U19AAA Rally for 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of Season**

### ***Take STATE and Show Well at Central Districts***

With a record of 25-21-11, following the final results of the Central District Championships, the U19AAA's pulled together and finished up strong and should be proud of what they were able to accomplish this season. They defeated Team Wisconsin soundly at the State Championships, with 5-1 and 3-1 victories. They went on to challenge Team Illinois in the Central District Championships, and fought hard, but lost with respectable scores 2-0 and 2-1. Team Illinois did not get off easy as the Wild held right with them until the end.

*In an effort to bring you up to speed, briefly, on how things were going heading into the Polar Tourney in December, you may remember that the U19AAA's were victorious with a 1<sup>st</sup> Place Title at the Windy City Classic last July, setting some high standards for themselves. They lost a key player, Holly Lorms, out with a knee injury, which impacted the entire chemistry of the team. She would be sorely missed for the remainder of the season. Holly was an integral part of the team, and took her role as mentor and led her team as best she could from the bench. The Tournament in North Dakota was a bland outcome at best, with a 2-2-1 record. The team really took a hit when they traveled to Shattuck-St. Mary's, coming home with a 1W-3L record. Our conference play was equally flat with a 4-5-3 record after three League weekends of conference play. Two of those four wins, however, came during the last weekend before the Polar Bear and one of the*

*losses happened in the last .18 seconds of the game. Some changes had been made, and confidence was beginning to bloom. The Wild was going in to the Polar Bear with some sense of hope. The Polar Bear was not as good as we hoped but we saw some positive things beginning to happen. The team posted a 1-2-1 record and split two exhibition games with the CT Polar Bears, losing to them 2-0 in the first match-up but defeating them soundly 2-1 in our second game. 14-17-6 overall at the end of 2006 left much room for improvement. The U19AAA's worked hard and they were determined to achieve a winning record.*

**2007 began**, and after the Polar Bear tourney in December, the team began to realize more wins than losses. They chalked up a 12-5-6 record which started with a key conference blow-out against the Chicago Chill followed by another key win against CYA in January, to secure a Playoff berth and hold onto their 4<sup>th</sup> place standing! The Playoffs were exciting as they nearly knocked MN Thoroughbreds down in the final game, and eventually took 4<sup>th</sup> place in the League. (4<sup>th</sup> out of 14 gave the team some much needed respect and encouragement leading into the final weeks of the season) The Wild pummeled Culver 4-0 and 3-1 in a rematch following the playoffs. Their first match-up was less than good as we split with them winning the first game 2-1, and then falling flat losing 4-1 the next day.

The State Tourney in Fond du Lac paired the Wisconsin Wild with Team Wisconsin for a best 2 out of 3 championship. The Wild didn't waste any

time taking it to Team WI defeating them the first game 5-1. The second game, played later that same day, was closer as Team WI trailed just 2-1 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> period, but the Wild surged and stretched the lead to eventually win the Championship 3-1.

Central District Championships found the Wild facing league rival, Team Illinois for the Midwest Championship. Team Illinois didn't get off easy, as the Wild played well with them the 1<sup>st</sup> game, and TI came away defeating the Wild by only a 2-0 margin. Game #2 found the Wisconsin Wild fighting back and trailing just 2-1 with 9:16 left in the 3<sup>rd</sup> period. A chance to tie it up with 1 minute to go; slipped through our fingers when the puck bounced off the goalie's toe at the post just inches shy of the corner. The Wild faced their second defeat losing 2-1 as TI took the Central District title, and will move on to the National Tourney in San Jose, CA.

With a total of 11 Ties for the season, the Wild was "close" in many ways, and had those ties been wins, well...the season may have turned out a little differently. Give credit to the Wisconsin Wild U19AAA's! They were improving each week through hard work, dedication and against all odds at times. To give TI a scare at the end and play them as closely as they did, the Wild put up a respectable finish to a season that began 6 months earlier. We applaud our Seniors for their contributions and leadership to this team, and we commend the younger players who stepped up their play to compete at this higher level. We're already looking forward to next season. As we say "So Long" to our graduating players, we wish you "All the Best" in college and we will be continually supporting you athletically and academically over these next several years! We are PROUD of you and glad to say that you're our Wisconsin Wild Alumnae!

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 regularly during the 2006-2007 hockey season. Suggestions and comments should be directed to Dan Koniar at [dkoniar@wi.rr.com](mailto:dkoniar@wi.rr.com)