



# WILD THINGS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN WILD GIRLS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## **DEVAS take the Ice!!!** - by Neil Traverse & Kevin Suino

Jan 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 is a day that will remain frozen in time for 13 new players and families to the game of hockey. That is the day the **WILD DEVA** team took the ice for their first of many exciting games during January and February. You can bet there were a few camcorders rolling and cameras flashing to capture each of those first moments on the ice.

The Devas team is the Wild's developmental hockey team that feeds into the U10 and U12 teams after new players spend time in the Junior Wild skill sessions. They will be playing several area Mini-Mite and Mite teams from the Greater Milwaukee area in full-ice and cross-ice games.

Playing for the Wild Deva team are a promising group of hockey players including:

**Kylie Diffley**  
**Cassie Fosdick**  
**Sarah Gleason**  
**Abby Hall**  
**Cami Herman**  
**Nicki Kain**  
**Michele Kugler**

**Sommer Kunstmann**  
**Lexi Loper**  
**Bailey Sandahl**  
**Lauren Trific**  
**Emma Vodenlich**  
**Anna Mae Yeazel**

The Wild Deva team is coached by **Neil Traverse** with assistance from some of the parents from the team. Neil is hoping to see a full house in the stands to cheer on this team! Come out and watch it all unfold on Saturdays / Sundays at the Ponds. For an up-to-date listing of game times visit the Wisconsin Wild website. **GO DEVAS!**

### JANUARY

12 - 7:15am @ Ponds  
19 - 8:45am @ Ponds  
20 - 10:30am @ Ponds  
26 - 7:25am @ Ponds

### FEBRUARY

2 - 10:15am @ Ponds  
9 - 7:45am @ Eble  
16 - 8:40am @ Ponds  
17 - 8:00am @ Eble  
23 - 8:40am @ Ponds

### MARCH

2 - 9:00am @ Pettit



## **Board of Directors**

President— *open*  
VP On Ice—Tom LaCombe  
VP Off Ice—Tom Gasperetti  
Secretary/Treasurer—Julie Atkielski  
Director At Large—Kevin Suino  
Jr. Wild Development—Neil Traverse  
Fundraising/Promotion—Daniel Koniar

## **CALENDAR**

### January

13 - Junior Wild 3:00-3:50pm  
20 - Junior Wild 3:00-3:50pm  
27 - Junior Wild 3:00-3:50pm

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

It's a new year and the hockey season is in full bore. I'm sure we have all added additional credit to our I-Passes, put snow tires on our vehicles to deal with all of this snow, and put new sticks under the Christmas tree to replace the ones our girls started with this season!

After returning from the All American Girls Tournament in Minnesota in mid November, the girls have posted a 8 - 2 - 2 record, with 5 shut outs. The Wild was particularly motivated in taking both games in the home and home confrontation with a very physical Madison Capital team. The only losses have come against conference rivals - the Flames and the Yellowjackets. The team has shown steady improvement against the better teams in the NIHL, as evidenced by subsequent ties against both of these teams and a shutout victory against the Yellowjackets last Sunday. The Wild is currently in second place in the NIHL trailing the Yellow-

jackets by 1 point.

With the Golden Blades and Little Caesar's Friendship Tournaments rapidly approaching January 25 - 27 and February 1 - 3 respectively, where the competition level will be ratcheted up considerably, Coaches JimBob, Rick and Sully are turning up the heat in practice. Speed and stamina are a major focus, and a better offensive mindset will be greatly needed. The team has been a very defensive-minded group through this point in the season, and as a result, has been in virtually every game played to date. But in order to move up to the *next level*, the team's offensive skills will need to be enhanced, and the girls will be called upon to "finish" games by playing hard through the last 12 minutes.

Through 24 games, the team statistics bear out these needs. Opponents had a cumulative total of 90 shots on goal in the 1st period, 103 in the 2nd and 138 in the 3rd. This translated into 15 goals in

each of the 1st 2 periods but 20 in the 3rd. Conversely, the Wild had by far more goals in the 1st period (49) as compared to the 2nd and 3rd (33 and 39 respectively). Defensively, opponents are being limited to 2.08 goals per game. And although these statistics include a number of games against lesser opponents, the defense has almost as stingy against even the better opponents.

The individual offensive stats through the same 24 games are as follows: **Jennifer Peck** (8 goals/12 assists) **Trinity Robinson** (4/7) **Kati Weber** (18/5) **Alexis Aghjian** (10/7) **Erin Ballinger** (7/5) **Sydney Weinreich** (12/10) **Kelsey Kazmierczak** (8/1) **Taylor Moreland** (10/10) **Katie Grudnowski** (7/13) **Molly Fromm** (31/17) **Abbie Lange** (2/6) **Sloan Sullivan** (4/3) and **Molli Goble** (3/7).



## U19AAA - *by Donna Rogers*

### WILD WEATHER WINTER IN DETROIT

"League Weekend goes 3-1"

MWEHL LEAGUE WEEKEND - DETROIT (12/13-15/08)

The Wild U19AAA motored over to Motor City and "stopped, dropped and rolled" over the Ohio Flames snuffing them out 5-2 and then took the air out of Bell Tire 7-0 to start of their successful weekend in Detroit. Honeybaked served up a challenging game that was tied 2-2 going late into the 3<sup>rd</sup> period. The Wild was eating them up on a powerplay and the last minute, but Honeybaked hog-tied the Wild and grilled a shot in shorthanded with 3.7 seconds to go in the game to steal the victory 3-2. The Wild faced Team Illinois in the final game freezing them in their tracks 5-0 blowing them away like the blizzard happening outside that morning.

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*\*\*For play-by-play details of our U19AAA games, go to our team website for complete stories!*

### WILD U19AAA GO 3-1 @POLAR BEAR TOURNEY

**Lost chance to advance with Head-to-Head decision (12/26-30/2007)**

The team has made great strides throughout the season, and has gained confidence especially over the last 4 weeks. Playing 2 back-to-back exhibition games against the CT Polar Bears, prior to the tourney, helped us get our legs back after the Christmas break and hours of traveling. The first game found us leading 2-0 going into the 3<sup>rd</sup> period, but CT managed to force themselves down our throats in their typical Polar Bear fashion, and took the game 3-2. Game #2 found the Wild losing momentum as CT got more warmed up as time ran on, and they soundly defeated us 4-0. We fought off fatigue as well as Polar Bears...but they were more than we could handle, that night.

The tournament began: Nearly 250 teams playing 1000 games at 10 venues around the state battled each other following Christmas at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Connecticut Polar Bear Women's Ice Hockey tourney. At the U19AAA level, with Wild was among 6 Divisions -- 24

teams in the highest level of the competition. The Wild U19AAA's had a very strong showing but was edged out by the CT Stars in the "Head-to-Head" decision that kept the Wild from advancing to the Quarterfinals. CT Stars got past the Wild in their first game of the tourney, defeating us 1-0. The Wild, looking like they were going to get washed away by the California Wave (formerly Cal Selects) rallied from a 1-3 deficit against the Wave and came back to swamp them 4-3 the next day. The Wild escaped with a victory over Chelmsford, MA 1-0 later the same day and then shot down the NJ Rockets 1-0 in the final game of regular play. With an impressive 3-1 record tying the CT Stars in our division, the loss to the Stars and a matter of one goal, kept the Wild from advancing.

Several team members and families spent spare time enjoying NYC, the Hartford area and each other's company at the hotel. College visits and chances to watch college women's hockey was a bonus for many. Next on the list...MWEHL League games in Chicago. Good Luck to all the Wild teams!

Wow, if we could've only stayed healthy...

The month of December brought the Wild U-10 a full month of challenges. The girls skated 10 games completing the month 5-5 with wins coming against girl U-10 programs from Wilmette, Verona and Sun Prairie as well as tough hard fought wins against boys squirt programs from the Pettit and Winter Club. **Annie Ertz** recorded two shut outs in the month against region 4 state tournament hopefuls; the Ice Spirit and D.C. Diamonds. In both games it was the constant offensive pressure of our forwards and smothering defense, keeping the competition off balance. Both **Lisa Browne** and **Irene Hougard** scored two and had an assist each to record three point games against the Ice Spirit. Combined scores Wild 14 – Diamonds and Spirit 0

The two wins against the squirts were proof to our team that no game is out of reach. Trailing to the Pettit squirts 2-1 going into the third, **Hougard** tied the game. The game winner was provided with 52 seconds left by **Jessica Malloy** off a well timed centering pass from **Justine Ertl**. Against the Winter

Club squirts the story was much the same, the U-10s went up 1-0 on a **Malloy** goal but trailed 2-1 midway through the second. **Francesca Suino** would tally a goal late in the second to tie and another from a **Hallie Traverse** feed early in the third for the win.

Our young team was taught a few lessons over the month as well. A clinic on speed and positioning were provided by the U-10's of Winnetka and Evanston, two Illinois programs featuring forwards double rostered on squirt "A" level teams. Our girls fought off many a rush by these premiere players and with outstanding goal tending by **Ertz** particularly against Evanston in a 5-3 loss, the games were kept close. After a fast paced, evenly skated first period the warriors outscored our girls 5-0 in the final two periods. We then learned about aggressive skating and well played odd man breaks from the Arrowhead squirts. The War hawks pressured our girls all game. **Irene Hougard** tallied the Wilds lone goal breaking the shut out late in the third period.

The month provided many firsts for our young team. **Mackenzie Walker** scored her first goal of the season on **Cora**

**Hougard's** first assist. **Meg Selkey** and **Ally Noles** earned their first assists of the season as well.

Maybe it was their small size, maybe it was the hour of day, or maybe it was the sniffles, coughs, and sneezes; but games against Mite "A" teams from Shaw and Arrowhead proved the old adage," it's not the size of the dog in the fight". Our girls looked tired and out of gas, particularly seeming reluctant to dig in the corners resulting in two late month losses. **Peyton Weinreich** and **Ertl** had a goal and an assist each against Shaw, but the Wild was held scoreless by Winter Club. All in all a great month of hockey once again giving hope for continued improvement and end of the year results.

#### **December scoring;**

**Goals:** 7 Peyton Weinreich, 6 Irene Hougard, Francesca Suino, 3 Justine Ertl, Lisa Browne, 2 Hannah Koniar, Jessica Malloy, Hallie Traverse, 1 Mackenzie Walker

**Assists:** 3 Lisa Browne, 2 Ertl, Weinreich, Suino, I. Hougard, 1 Koniar, Meg Selkey, Traverse, Ally Noles, Cora Hougard

## **U14AAA & U14 -** by *Jane DeGeorge*

The U14 AAA team met in Detroit in December, and beat Belle Tire 5 to 2. The triple A teams play more physical and goalie **Jennifer DeGeorge** scored her 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> penalties ever in the Belle Tire game. Her Defense do step in to protect their goalie, evidenced by **Hope Kablan's** 24 penalty minutes and **Rachel Babiarz's** 12.

**Mariah Matthys** leads the team in scoring with 16 points, followed by **Michelle Greenway** with 9 points and **Karban, Lauren Roethlisberger** and **Zoe Verkerke** each with 6 points rounding out the top five. The team drove home in 'blizzard-like' conditions from Detroit, doubling the drive time for most families. All arrived home safely. A team dinner on Saturday and several families seeing the Detroit Red Wings as they made penalty shot history added to the week-end excitement.

The girls are looking forward to meeting again in Illinois in January where they will play as many as six games in the 3-day period. The girls and their families are experiencing great hockey. Some are wondering what potential this team would have if the girls were able to practice together like their competitors.

The U-14 team had 9 wins, 10 losses and 5 ties at the close of 2007, with **Jennifer DeGeorge** earning a 90% save average. Shots on goal tell the story as the girls won each December game where their shots exceeded 20. For example, the Wild beat Fond du Lac 5-3 although Fond du Lac outshot the Wild, 24 to 22. **Jamie Ertl** scored 2 goals, **Sarah Atkielski, Jessie Nelson** and **Taija Robinson** each scored a goal, with assists from **Morgan Clark (2), Atkielski, Nelson** and **Alyssa Webb**.

Other December highlights included the Kenosha game where families traveled to and from the Kenosha rink in an ice storm. They were rewarded with a record 40 shots on goal and an 8-1 Wild victory. **Cara Anzivino** scored a hat trick; **Emily Fromm, Nelson, Robinson, Erica Shaffer** and **Hayley Siira** also scored goals. Assists were earned by **Atkielski** and **Nelson**. **MaKenna Stelpflug** scored the only goal against the Fury with an assist from **Siira** and **Webb** scored the only goal against Winter Club with an assist from **Stelpflug**. **DeGeorge** earned a shutout against the Fury in Chicago. The girls won 4-0 with 26 shots on goal, with 2 goals earned by **Robinson; Ertl** and **Nelson** each scored a goal. **Clark (2), Atkielski, Nelson** and **Webb** earned assists. The wins show the capability of this U-14 team; the losses reflect the challenge for consistency this season.

The girls had a full schedule this month, playing a total of 15 games throughout the month. They went undefeated in the Wild round robin tournament at the Ponds to start off the month. They defeated Green Bay 19U team 8-0, Marquette 5-2, and the Chicago Fury twice by scores of 3-0 and 2-1.

Next up were 2 practice games vs. Team Illinois. The girls lost the first game 2-0, but found the missing magic ingredient for game 2 the following day. The magic ingredient was another sleepover at the Pope Motel, courtesy of **Jack and Laurel Pope**. The girls took game two 3-0 for their first win of the season against TI.

December 14-16 was a Showcase Weekend in Detroit. They tied 2 Little Caesars 1-1, lost to Victory Honda 2-1, lost to Honeybaked 6-1, and tied Belle Tire 4-4.

The third weekend of December was

an off weekend, giving the girls time for Christmas break and then preparation for the Polar Bear Annual Holiday Tournament. The ladies played some pretty solid team defense and got very solid goaltending from **Emily and Kelly**, but never found their offense. In a practice game at Yale University, we lost to the Connecticut Polar Bears 6-1. A little jet lag and missing equipment from the flight didn't help the girls any. They rebounded nicely the next day at the first game of the tournament, playing strong team defense, but lost to the Massachusetts Spitfires 2-0. They had the remainder of the day off and we all took a field trip to New York City for sightseeing and shopping. The next afternoon, we were shutout again, losing to the Connecticut Stars 3-0. The ladies regrouped at the motel with a little Christmas party, a gift exchange, and Olive Garden. They came out flying in the night game and completely stifled the Scarborough Sharks of Ontario, winning 1-0. There was some

rumor going around about teenage hormones only working at night but I don't know. The next day at noon it was Honeybaked Ham. The girls played the scheme Joe asked for almost perfectly. Honeybake scored on a lucky rebound shot, making it 1-0. It stayed that way until there were only a few seconds left in the game when they scored an empty net goal, but it was an outstanding effort by the girls nonetheless.

They finished the month with 6 wins, 7 losses, and 2 ties.

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 2007-2008 hockey season. Suggestions and ideas for future issues are welcome and should be directed to Dan Koniar at [dkoniar@wi.rr.com](mailto:dkoniar@wi.rr.com)



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ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 128  
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### Special points of interest:

- *Wild Devas take the Ice*
- *Junior Wild Continues*
- *Team Summaries*

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