



HOCKEY TIMEOUT

Puck News You Can Use

December 2008

Volume I, Issue I

Welcome to the first issue of *Hockey Timeout*. We are very excited to launch a new communication vehicle that celebrates the OMGHA community and those involved.

Hockey Timeout will be e-mailed to team managers and available on the web site the 15th of each month through April. For more information contact: newsletter@omgha.com.

Happy Holidays!
Julie Johnson, Editor

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A Message from the Board

With tryouts completed, traveling teams formed and Mite and Supermite teams on the ice, the OMGHA Board hopes everyone takes the time to read our inaugural newsletter. The Board of Directors was very excited when we were presented with the idea for this new means of communication. We hope Association members, team managers and coaches will take the time to submit articles and updates for future newsletters.

The 2008-2009 Season has brought a number of changes, challenges and excitement to the Association. Without a doubt the biggest news of the year is the opening of the second sheet of ice at the Maple Grove Community Center. While the Association still has its work cut out with continued fundraising for the new facility, it is already benefiting OMGHA by increasing our development opportunities for players and hosting tournaments. Recently we held the first OMGHA Tournament showcasing our new facility and Peewee and Bantam B2 teams. We received several positive compliments from visiting communities. The new lobby, viewing areas and team facilities were a big hit with everyone.

This season marked the restructuring and combination of all Osseo and Maple Grove traveling teams. With nearly 600 traveling players in the association this year, tryouts proved to be a challenge for the evaluators, ice scheduler and level directors. However, the outcome seems to be very well received. Our teams at all levels have been competitive, with players from both Osseo and Maple Grove playing on every team. We feel we have accomplished our goal of placing players at their appropriate skill level.

The Executive Committee plans to recommend a strategy for making the restructuring of the traveling teams permanent at the December Board meeting. A committee will be comprised of both Board and non-Board members with a goal of identifying and addressing the outstanding challenges of the restructuring. These include potential changes to the make-up of the OMGHA Board, our bylaws and the makeup of the traveling committees.

The Board is always interested in hearing your questions, concerns or comments. We invite everyone to attend our monthly meetings and to help in the operation of this great association. The next Board meeting is January 11, 2009.

Team Spotlight—U10 Program Breaks New Ground

The 2008-09 season boasts some interesting changes in the U10 program. For starters, the season began in October with seven weeks of development in a program led by EuroAmerican Hockey. Lead instructors Corey Laylin and Marcia Bydlon put the girls through high-paced practices and lots of individual skill development. After the first week, players were evaluated and divided into four groups. The middle group split time skating with the upper and lower groups. This allowed players to skate with like-ability players in a variety of situations. Skills were challenged as well as supported by grouping the players.

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Tip of the Month

by EuroAmerican Hockey's Cory Laylin

Knee bend is the most important aspect in every area of skating. It will improve your balance, agility, quickness and overall speed. Knee bend requires leg strength, and for young players it will come with practice.

Players need to bend their knees as deep as they possibly can while keeping their chest up. This will encourage good posture for stick handling, shooting and keeping their heads up to make plays.



Coaches' Corner

Jesse Braasch, Supermite II Kings and Mite II Bulldogs Coach

"Jesse does a tremendous job with the kids on and off the ice. He has rightfully earned great respect, dedication, and admiration from his players and their families. Keeping the sport fun, while providing solid hockey instruction has been an instrumental key to his success as a coach. In addition, for all of his hard work, Jesse was recognized with a coaching award last year from Minnesota Hockey."-- Suzy Borsch, Manager, Kings.

How long have you been coaching hockey? Seven quick years.

Did you play hockey as a youth and did you have a favorite coach growing up? I started playing hockey in fourth grade as a Squirt. After two years playing right wing, I switched to goalie the day before Peeewe tryouts and made B. My favorite coach was my first goalie coach, Terry Johnson. He was the first to really show interest in my development as a goalie. He was not just there to win games; he helped me work on my deficiencies rather than just go through the normal success paces. Not to mention he introduced me to my first pair of goalie skates, and I have never switched back.

What do you like best about coaching? At this age, the smiles! I really am addicted to the fun we have as a team, the kids and the opportunity to coach for 6-8 hours a week.

What is one of your secret weapons when coaching your kids? That wouldn't be much of a secret weapon would it? To be honest, I don't have any secrets, but if I were to make one up, it would be to have fun and challenge the kids every time they come to practice. Also, I push all of my skaters, regardless of strength! They really do learn best from each other, not just the coaching.

Do you have a favorite success story with one of the kids you've coached? I would have to say it was during my first year coaching in OMGHA, Mite I hockey. There was a time in the season when every player had scored a goal except for one. He and his parents were getting frustrated. We just kept telling him that if he kept working hard his time would come. During the second to last game of the season he did just that and scored. It was like time stood still for a couple of seconds. Every player on the bench, coaches and parents jumped for joy, but "MJ" had nothing on us that day. What did he do? He gave it a little fist pump and went back to work. Now that is a success.

What advice do you give to your players on the first day of practice? For goodness sake FALL! Not only do I tell them to fall, I make it my personal mission to fall at least once every practice.

Team Spotlight (continued from page 1)

Parent coaches participated in the sessions as instructors, as well as students. They not only encouraged and critiqued the players, but were also students of the game as they learned from the staff of EuroAmerican. The coaches are now taking everything they learned and bringing those skills to the ice as U10 coaches.

In addition to the development camp, formal tryouts were replaced by coaches' evaluations. Over the seven-week period, coaches evaluated the players. This system provided more opportunities to analyze the players and properly place them at the end of the program. The camp ended with the four teams competing in abbreviated jamboree style games.

The majority of the feedback has been positive. Many parents provided input on the program through a survey. Program information and survey results will be posted on the U10 page on the OMGHA website.



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We are celebrating 21 years of sponsoring Scholastic Achievement, a program that recognizes outstanding academic achievements of our traveling-age hockey players.

All OMGHA players, Squirt, U10 level and higher, who maintain a minimum of a "B" (3.0) average for the fall and winter grading periods are eligible for the program. Qualifying players will be recognized at the 21st Annual Scholastic Achievement award ceremony in April 2009. Visit the website to find out how you can be part of this amazing program!

Sponsorship Opportunities

A new sponsorship and fundraising development program will be announced in the coming weeks. Look for more information on the OMGHA website. We are in need of individuals to assist in local, community-based sponsorship and fundraising activities. This assistance will be coordinated under the *Personal Fundraising Program*. For more information on how to get involved, contact Jeff Mordhorst at jmordhorst@comcast.net or call 612-554-5714.

Community Development Update & Report

Beginning with the 2008-09 hockey season, the OMGHA Executive Board has consolidated the Association's fundraising, sponsorship, financial assistance, special events and community awareness activities under the banner of *Community Development*. The purpose of this merger is to provide more effective coordination in an area important to the growth and development of the sport in the communities that make up OMGHA.

In implementing this new *Community Development* program, we are in need of individuals and volunteers to assist in accomplishing our goals and objectives associated with existing activities and several new concepts. For more information on what opportunities are available, contact Jeff Mordhorst, OMGHA Community Development Coordinator at jmordhorst@comcast.net or call 612-554-5714.

Project I.C.E.

Look for a preliminary listing of contributors within the Project I.C.E. link on the OMGHA website. Contributors will be able to check and confirm that they have been correctly listed on the website and for future recognition at the Maple Grove Arena. We want to make sure that everyone who contributed to the Project I.C.E. program is properly recognized. If not, contact Jeff Mordhorst.

Donor gifts will be distributed at a special event held at the new arena in January. Contributors of \$250 or more will also receive a contribution letter from OMGHA that can be used for tax purposes.

Financial Assistance

Our *Financial Assistance Program* awarded more than \$2,500 in scholarships to families to help with costs during the 2008-09 season. We also offer a *Personal Fundraising Program* where families can earn credit vouchers that can be applied toward costs related to playing in OMGHA. Last year, families earned over \$18,000 in vouchers. More information on the *Personal Fundraising Program* is available on the OMGHA website.

Silent Auction/Gift Baskets

All teams are reminded that they will be asked to provide a silent auction item or gift basket for either one of the four OMGHA Winter Face-Off Classic tournaments, the Mite/Supermite Jamboree or Spring Gala this year. A silent auction/fundraising coordinator will be contacting team managers to organize your team's item. It's a fun way to work together as a team and help benefit the Association. Below is a breakdown of age groups/team levels and which event/activity they have been assigned for 2008-09.

| Age Group | Event/Activity | Date(s) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| All Squirt Teams | Winter Face-Off Classic | Jan. 16-18 |
| All Pee Wee Teams | Winter Face-Off Classic | Jan. 30-Feb. 1 |
| All Girls' Traveling Teams | Winter Face-Off Classic | Feb. 6-8 |
| All Mite Teams | Mite & Supermite Jamborees | March 14-15 |
| All Supermite Teams | Spring Gala | March 21 |



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Volunteer Efforts

Frequently Asked Questions

Where are all of the volunteer opportunities posted? They are posted on our new online volunteer system (DIBS). Visit the website at www.omgha.com and enter your username and password (located in the upper left hand corner of the screen) and then click on "Utilities" (which is also located in the upper left hand corner of the screen next to your name). Click on 08-09 volunteering to see what is currently posted.

Where are all the concession hours? Concession hours make up less than 20 percent of the total volunteer hours needed to run the association and they go fast. Typically we post the hours shortly after we receive the ice schedule that is usually available to us about 3 weeks in advance.

How do I receive credit after working a shift? After you have completed the assigned duty, you may view your DIB items by entering your username and password (located in the upper left hand corner of the screen) and then click on "Utilities" (which is also located in the upper left hand corner of the screen) next to your name. You can then click on the text that is in the DIB ITEM column (for example, concessions). A new screen will appear that will give you the option to select "verify completion." Once you have selected the "verify completion," you will get a message that states your request has been sent and will then be completed by the Volunteer Coordinator Team.

Please visit our volunteer home page for more information or contact Dana Johnson or Jill Wentz, Volunteer Coordinators at VolCoordinator@omgha.com

2009 Spring Gala

Even though the first snowflakes have just fallen, mark your calendars NOW for the 2009 OMGHA Spring Gala on Saturday, March 21st.

This year's gala will be at the Rush Creek Golf Club in Maple Grove.



Arena Signage Your Name Here!

OMGHA is selling signage packages for the Osseo Arena East and West rinks.

Packages start at \$750 and include promotional and advertising opportunities.

What's New at the Counter?

Along with all the excitement of a beautiful new ice arena in the Maple Grove Community Center, a new concession stand recently opened on the lower level. In addition to serving the items typically found on the upper level concession stand, now you can enjoy an order or two of onion tangles, mozzarella sticks, fries, mini corn dogs, chicken strips and a State Fair favorite—mini donuts. These items are freshly made to order.

The new lower level MGCC concession stand is open daily:

- Monday-Friday 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Sunday 1:30 p.m. (or earlier) – 9:00 p.m.

Now Recruiting for MGCC

Earn an hourly rate to apply towards your child's monthly subsidies, OMGHA-sponsored hockey camps and more. Shifts range from 2-6 hours on weekday evenings, all day Saturday and most of Sunday. Contact Karla Tanner at 763-226-7087 for more information.



The Slap Shop is Closing!

If you haven't already heard the news, the Slap Shop at the Osseo Arena is closing its window on Sunday, December 21. All merchandise is priced to sell and must go. Check out the bargains for your holiday shopping.



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OMGHA Tournament Event Highlights

Winona Fire On Ice Tourney (Nov. 21-23)

Bantam B2 Orange – 3rd Place

Forest Lake (Nov. 21-23)

PeeWee C Gold – 3rd Place

Spectacular Thanksgiving Tourney (Nov. 28-30)

Squirt A – 2nd Place

Squirt B1 Orange – 3rd Place

Eden Prairie Tourney (Nov. 28-30)

PeeWee A – Consolation Champions

Minneapolis Cup (Nov. 28-30)

PeeWee B1 Crimson – 2nd Place

Squirt B2 Maroon – Consolation Champions

Champlin Rebel Classic (Nov. 28-30)

Squirt B2 White – 3rd Place

Edina Cake Eaters Tourney (Nov. 28-30)

U10A – 3rd Place

Roseville Thanksgiving Tourney (Nov. 28-30)

Bantam B2 Orange – 7th Place

White Bear Lake Tourney (Nov. 28-30)

Bantam B1 – Consolation Champions

Centennial Chill Tourney (Nov. 28-30)

U10B Orange – 2nd Place

Osseo Maple Grove Winter Classic Tourney (Dec. 5-7)

Bantam B2: Orange – 1st Place, White – 2nd Place, Black – 3rd Place

PeeWee B2: White – 1st Place, Black – 2nd Place, Maroon – 4th Place

Anoka Tourney (Dec. 5-7)

U10B Crimson – 3rd Place

Alexandria B1-B2 Tourney (Dec. 5-7)

Squirt B1 Crimson – 2nd Place

Squirt B2 Black – 6th Place

OMG Winter Classic Highlights

Bantam B2 Championship Game



Saves the shot!



*3rd Place against Eagan
Ready for the power shot guys?*

PeeWee B2 Championship Game



This puck is mine!



I'm going in!



*4th place against Prior Lake
It's going right over your shoulder for the goal!*

Helmet Product Recall!

U.S. Consumer Product Safety commission announced that hockey helmets have been recalled by Reebok-CCM due to head and neck injury hazard.

Helmets recalled have a HECC sticker with a date code of JUN – 2013. Consumers should stop using and return the helmets to the place of purchase for a free replacement helmet. To see this recall on CPSC's web site, go to: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prereldec08.html>

Tournament Apparel

New this year, tournament t-Shirts!

If you are interested in ordering a t-shirt please contact John Griffith at 763-494-0441 or visit the tournament page.

Orders must be in by January. Adult sizes up to XXXL cost \$20; youth sizes are \$15.



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