



Hyland Hockey News

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Message from BOD President

February is home stretch month for teams headed to playoffs. Hyland will host the Major AA and Major A playoffs over President's Day weekend. A weekend that will be filled with our 8 & under players in the annual Jaguar Jamboree. It's also "Hockey Across America" weekend, so there will be lots of excitement at the rink. Cheer on our Major AA and Major A teams.

Bantam AA playoffs are one week later and to be held at Littleton. Our Silver Stick National champions are sure to be there.

Squirt, Peewee and Bantam playoffs happen in March with Hyland hosting the Bantam A and B divisions where we expect all 3 Hyland teams to make a strong showing. We will also host the Bantam division of the DNHL that weekend. Squirts will be at Littleton and Peewee at Foothills.

It's been a very good season already and we are looking forward to hanging more championship banners.

Scott Sheehan, BOD President

“If It IS Going To Be, It Is Up To Me”

By: Hal Tearse , Coach in Chief, Minnesota Hockey

Individual attitude and commitment are important in the development of a hockey player during youth and high school hockey. Players who recognize that they alone are responsible for the long term outcome in their sport will inevitably seek out the opportunities they need to get better. It is important for parents and coaches to help their players understand this concept and to help players understand what qualities they need to possess to be a “Hockey Player” versus just playing hockey. There is no particular formula to becoming a “player” but in order to make the point the thoughts below might help coaches and parents assess and guide their youngsters.

- Any where, any time, any body. These players will play any time they get a chance. They (or you) will drive several hours just to play. It does not matter with whom or about wins or loses to them; they just want the puck on their stick. They are usually smiling.
- When nobody is looking; These players shoot hundreds of pucks everyday all year long. They do not need a fancy shooting station. Just a net and bucket of pucks. They are never satisfied and always want to do better. For the older players you can find them at the school weight room actually lifting weights and getting stronger. They might be with a couple friends but as often as not they are alone.
- Play other sports: “Hockey Players” love to compete at anything be it hockey, lacrosse, football, or hackysack. They would rather play than watch sports. Parents and coaches should encourage their kids to play other sports to help them become better athletes and learn new skills.
- Coachable: Coachable players recognize that every coach has something to offer to them. By the time they are seniors most players have had over 50 coaches. By keeping an open mind and learning along the way each team and season builds for the next. Coaches and parents should encourage their players to learn every time they get on the ice or engage in any sport related opportunity.
- Resilient: Disappointment is part of sports and life. Allowing players to experience disappointment and then to bounce back is a valuable lesson. Parents and coaches need to allow players to experience losses without placing blame on the officials or some other factor. For “hockey players” disappointments strengthen their resolve to do better the next time.
- Patience: As each player grows older they have certain windows of time when they are most receptive to learning and acquiring the various skills they need to play. These windows of time vary a bit for each player. Through age 15 most practice sessions should consist of fundamental skills development including small area games. The 12-15 year old window is when players are most receptive to fundamental skill development. Players then continue to develop all through high school and into college and need to continue to refine their skills and build strength. High school coaches should be careful not to neglect fundamental skill work in favor of team skills.
- Motivation; The only motivation that is sustainable is internal. External motivation based on fear or some sort of artificial reward system will fail. About ten percent of players are motivated to become “players”. The rest merely play hockey. When coaching youth or high school players’ coaches are advised to assess which category each player falls into in order to

Team Updates



BANTAM 1

Congratulations are in order for the Hyland Hills Bantam 1 team who has recently finished as runner up in the Slapshot Tournament held in Fort Collins over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend.

Bantam 1, which is coached by David Brandt, Matt Armitage, Martin Fejka and Roy Denley played hard against a 12 team bantam pool. Their team had combined for 18 goals for while only allowing a stingy five goals against. Shots were consistently fired at the opposing goalies in every game including 44 shots taken in the semi-final round against NCYH Red. Penalty minutes were the crucial deciding factor; only 10 penalty minutes were assessed in the first three games, bringing this accomplished Hyland team to a first place seed within their division. Playing with 13 skaters and 2 goalies, this team managed to spread their goals among nine different skaters. All skaters finished the tournament with at least one point. Among the skaters, Griffin Midler finished the tournament with the highest number of points, 24, 14 goals and 10 assists. Line mate Taylor "T-Dog" Rensink also finished in 8th place with 7 points, 5 goals and 2 assists.

The team's tandem goalie pair of AJ Norvell and Kyle Essig finished third and fifth respectively out of 20 goalies. They both faced double-digit shots in each game they played. AJ finished the tournament with a .887 save percent, while Kyle finished with a .879 save percent.

As this team went into the championship game, their spirit never darkened and the battle was never given up as shot after shot was taken up to the final seconds of the game. Even though the outcome was not the desired one, these boys never lost sight of the game they all love to play and the sportsmanlike camaraderie was very apparent as they shook hands with their opponent and posed for their after game photo.

Way to go Bantam 1. The next tournament will be the Mile Hi Meltdown over Presidents Day weekend!

MIDGET MAJOR A

The Hyland Hills Major A team is no longer a losing team. In fact, as of now the team is first in the division with two games remaining until the CCYHL playoffs. The key to our success this season has been hard work and off ice conditioning throughout the season. This season we have had some huge pickups, our leading scorer Nicholas Geyer who is leading the league in points and Jonathon Lavan who is a close second. Good offensive depth and a solid defensive core in front of consistent goaltending has been the key ingredient to our recipe for success. Head Coach Wayne Palinckx expects nothing less than a State Championship this year with the talent and determination of his team. After coming back from a rocky tournament in Dallas, the team has re focused and is ready to make the final push to finish strong and end a great season on an even higher note. CCYHL playoffs begin February 14th at the Promenade. We hope to see you all in the stands!

GO JAGS!!

Team Update

SQUIRT A

Squirt A will finish January in a tie for 4th Place in CCYHL play with Colorado Springs & Foothills behind Front Range, Arapahoe, & Boulder.

The highlight of the month was a first place finish in the Texas Star Tournament in Dallas, Texas over President's Weekend. Congratulations to all of the players and coaches representing Colorado and Hyland Hills!



The championship was captured with physical and skating superiority over: Oklahoma City, OK Blazers 2-1, San Antonio, TX Thunder 7-1, Dallas, TX Ice Jets 3-0, Lafayette, LA Sharpshooters 6-5.

The Team is still searching for the right offensive mix up front to bring a much needed balanced scoring attack against the top teams in the division, while the defense and goaltending works toward consistency.

February is sure to be exciting, jockeying for position during the final four games before playoffs against CHC, Littleton, Foothills, and Boulder plus the annual Fargo, ND International Squirt Tournament tune-up.

The time is now . . . Go Jaguars!

("If It Is Going To Be, It Is Up To Me" Continued from page 2)

deliver the correct messages and training to each individual player. Players who are willing to give up something in order to get something of greater value understand the trade offs and willingly move ahead with their eye on the future.

As a coach or parent you can assess any player based on the qualities above. If several of the points are lacking you have an individual who is simply playing hockey and hopefully having fun. In the instance of a player where many of the above are present and combined with above average athletic ability, that individual could perhaps move into the elite level of players that could be called "hockey players".

For Boston Bruins rookie and Plymouth native Blake Wheeler, he recognized at age 15 that he needed to focus on development and forget about current disappointments. You can hear his interview on this subject by clicking on this link. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKOeuhMhw_A

By taking a long term view of player development and understanding the process that players go through as they move from childhood to adolescence and then into young adults it is easier to forgive their day to day transgressions, mistakes and blunders as they learn to play the great game of hockey.

***To Win the Game is Great
To play the game is Greater
To Love the game is Greatest of All***

Team Updates

BANTAM B1



The Bantam B1 team traveled to Dallas over the MLK weekend to play in the Texas Star Winter Classic Tournament. The directors of this tournament set things up a little different as in they don't use the traditional AA, A and B format for bracketing teams. They do a great deal of research to group teams they feel would make the most competitive tournament. The Bantam B1 team was put in the Bantam White division of 6 teams which included 4 teams from the North Texas Youth Hockey League's Bantam A division as well as Front Range's Bantam A team. Round robin play started with the Dallas Penguins and while the B1 team took a period to get use to their surroundings, and were out shot in a contest for the first time this season, the Jaguars still managed a solid 4-2 win. Game two brought a San Antonio Thunder team that didn't have much size but made up for it in speed and solid team play. The game was back and forth with several lead changes and when the Jags had a man sent to the box with 1:50 on the clock in the 3rd period trailing 5-4, it looked like they might be in line for their first defeat of the year. San Antonio called time out to set the power play but unfortunately for them it just gave Chad Sneed a moment to rest and hit the ice to kill the penalty and score one of 6 short handed goals for the tournament to tie the game at 5-5. Game 3 would come against the Duncanville Canadiens. The Canadiens had good size and speed and were just coming off a tie to the Front Range Bantam A team. The Jaguars took the play straight to the Canadiens and had 11 shots on net before their opponents had their first. The scoring started with yet another short handed goal from Sneed and B1 never looked back skating away with a strong 7-3 victory. The win over Duncanville sent B1 to the title game which would be a rematch against the Penguins. The first period was tight and both teams tallied a goal, but the Jaguars took the better part of play in the second and a 3-1 lead in to the third period. Trailing by 2 the Penguins made noise and showed they weren't going to give up and by the middle of the period the score was tied 3-3. Both teams locked down defensively and few chances were given to either side. Chris Huitt rang a shot from the point off the cross bar with just a few seconds left on the clock but regulation play ended all knotted up 3-3. The tournament wasn't set for an overtime period so it was straight to the shoot out. Dallas took the first shot and shoot out tested goalie Alec Jahrman stood tall in the net again turning away shot number one. Logan Shelton had the first round for the Jaguars and sent a beautiful wrist shot high to the glove side and in to the net. Chris Morley just missed to the stick side in round two, but when Alec turned away all the Penguins attempts another tournament title was in hand. Head coach Trevor Sneed, assistant coaches Kelly Shelton, Brad Juntunen, and Mike Lemmon, team manager Jody Sneed and all the family, friends and fans of Bantam B1 couldn't be more proud of how the team stepped up to the challenge and performed in Dallas. Of the 28 teams that made up all the Bantam brackets only 4 scored more goals over the weekend, and only 8 had fewer penalty minutes. Every player on the team made a huge contribution, from goalies Alec Jahrman and Austin Shoemake, to defensemen Matt Eurich, Nick Lephew, Jesse Flores, Nolan Juntunen, Chris Huitt and Matthew Moore, and forwards Ryan Bochert, Joe Nelson, Chad Sneed, Kyle Schamaun, Logan Shelton, Nick Mead, Chris Morley, Chandler Reid and Alec Lemmon, the team represented Hyland Hills and Colorado well.

Two Decades at Hyland Hills

By Jamie O'Leary

Recently, as I was walking from the offices of the Hyland Hills Hockey Association to the green rink amidst hundreds of folks waiting for the public skate to begin, it occurred to me how much has changed in the nearly two decades that I've haunted the rink's halls. At that moment, I was very impressed by how far our beloved association has come since I first saw a Jaguars' jersey. I decided it would be fun to share with you some observations about where we were, where we are, and where we are going as a hockey organization.

My family first became involved with Hyland in the 1989-1990 season. At the time, the club operated out of a corrugated tin shed at the bottom of Raleigh Street off of 92nd Avenue in Westminster. The building had a bright orange and brick façade which gave it the feel of an old barn you might find somewhere in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Inside the building, it was wickedly cold during the winter and humid--almost muggy—in the summer. The locker rooms were in dramatic disrepair with mold and other nastiness all over the place in the showers. They were as dimly lit as an interrogation room in a communist-era prison, too, with single hanging light bulbs or, if you were lucky enough to be in one of the “new locker rooms,” fluorescent light bulbs that were frequently exploded all over the floor by misguided hockey sticks. It's an understatement to say that the conditions of the facility weren't great, and yet I have many fond memories of my experiences there. It was here that I really grew up in hockey, after all.

My father was the HSHA scheduler at the time, and my younger brother was playing on the Mite AA travel team. I was playing for Team Colorado and splitting my time equally between the backseat of our family car and the various rinks from here to Colorado Springs and Breckenridge to Fort Collins. Hyland's rink, even though my team did not call it home ice, had the feeling of a home rink to me. I could easily point out the dent in the wall made by my hockey puck, or the piece of boards that took a chunk out of my elbow while I spent hours in the building on the ice helping with my brother's team, or waiting for my father's latest board meeting to end. Back in those days, I remember thinking that the Hyland Hills Youth Hockey organization consisted of my brother's team and the meetings that my father had to attend. With the exception of early Saturday mornings, it was a rarity to find more than just the folks involved with the two teams on the ice in the building at any one time. This is a hazard of single sheet facilities. The sense of community we now enjoy is sorely absent.

By today's standards, my impression was that back in 1989-1990 the organization was a relatively unstructured agreement by a bunch of hockey-playing families to wear the same color uniforms. I remember that Hyland wore bright orange away jerseys. Given our standing in the state league, the color was appropriate, as we were sometimes skated around like traffic cones by the opposition. My greatest involvement with Hyland at the time came by way of an annual summer high school league which was amazing fun and a grand opportunity to impress the girl(s) that I had my eye on. For my family, however, the talk around the dinner table was often about the orange and black. As most of you know, hockey becomes a lifestyle; it pervaded every facet of our lives even then.

If we fast forward to the spring of 1997, which I consider the second phase of my involvement with Hyland, the association was still operating out of the old rink with the orange siding. I was fresh out of college and starting my career as a hockey coach. On the exterior, not much had changed other than some new potholes in the parking lot. HSHA had grown significantly and had graduated to conducting its board meetings out of the Hyland Hills Municipal Golf Course Bar and Restaurant; which was both a terrific and disastrous idea, for reasons you can probably imagine. The organization had nearly tripled in size from 1989 to 1997. The away uniforms were now black and there were some league championship banners on the walls of the building. I remember my college senior spring break back in Colorado was spent on the ice with the hockey-training company that had been hired to oversee hockey operations for the association. It seemed as though there were a hundred aspiring NHLers in the building from sunrise to sunset. But, by the end of my spring break, I had managed to get down virtually every player's first name, if not first and last. I couldn't wait for the summer to begin so that I could devote my full attention to being on the ice with all of these new players.

("Two Decades at Hyland Hills " Continued)

One thing that floored me upon my return to Hyland was how devoted youth hockey players had become. Gone was the high school summer league, and in its place were countless clinics and camps, academies and summer tournament teams. The players were significantly more skilled than their decade-earlier counterparts. In my generation of players, my family and I were an exception to the norm, spending hours and days on the ice year round. It seemed that by 1997 a huge percentage of the hockey playing population had caught on that hours on the ice in the spring and summer meant success on the ice in the fall and winter.

My older brother and I were hired in 1998 as the organization's hockey directors and served in that capacity as the organization got wind of an amazing new development. It turns out that the City of Westminster and the Hyland Hills Parks and Recreation department had decided to trade in our old orange barn for the newest, biggest and best ice hockey facility in the Rocky Mountain Region, and the West for that matter.

The transition from old to new was filled with an amazing optimism. As an organization, we had outgrown the old barn. We had become too large for our humble single sheet origin. In the first transition year, we split time between the old rink and the new rink. They ushered us into the new building through the construction entrance in the back of what was to become the Ice Centre at the Promenade. One of the things that struck me the most, in those first few months before we were able to see the blue and green rinks for the first time, was the lighting in the locker rooms. The prison interrogation room feel was gone. The new locker rooms were an amazing departure from our dingy rooms in the old barn.

Cutting to the spring of 2009, Hyland Hills has taken on an amazing new look and feel. Our membership numbers have exploded since we first snuck into the new building through the back door. The commitment to the game shared by the majority of families playing has doubled and redoubled. There are now literally hundreds of aspiring NHLers at the rink from sunrise to sunset. One sad change, for me personally, has been to see all of the familiar faces that I met in 1997 moving on and (hopefully not) out of the game. It would be a Herculean task, today, to remember all of the first names of the players on the ice, let alone first and last.

Hockey, it seems to me, has become somewhat more complicated today than it was in 1989 or even 1997. There are certainly more choices for hockey families today than there ever were even 12 years ago. It seems like there is more at stake. With rising costs in hockey, especially in elite competitive hockey, it is only natural that the emotional investment of the parents has increased. Gone are the days of the \$18 wooden stick. . . or even the \$40 aluminum one.

Despite all the changes and growth over two decades, many things have remained consistent. The board meetings still take hours of some mom or dad's time, kids are still loitering at the rink waiting forever for their little brothers and sisters. There is great optimism about what is ahead for the rest of this hockey season and seasons to come. The passion the kids share for their sport has only grown. We still proudly wear the orange and black, although now with a cool new logo. We still see some of the same friendly faces that we came to know as our coaches in 1997 (and even one from 1989!). The game has grown up in Westminster. It is still what it has always been. It is our lifestyle. It is our Saturday mornings. It provides ammunition for our dreams and conversation for the dinner table. It is a little older and wiser now, but it will continue to be what it has always been—a great hockey club.

Jake Hutyra #4

Current Team: 8U - A Black

Favorite music or past time? Jake likes the song Apologize by Timbaland, Flowbots, and of course the hockey song by the Jugheads. He loves sledding and swimming and just started skating on inline skates for fun. He really wants to try skiing/snowboarding this year.

Who is your favorite NHL hockey player? Joe Sakic

Accomplishments/Awards. He's accomplished so much in hockey this year already! He is very excited to continue hockey and start a trophy collection all his own. He has attended a few years of preschool and is excited to take the big step in starting kindergarten in fall of 2009.



Ethan Galvan #20



Current Team: 8U - A Black

How long has your child been a Jaguar? This is Ethan's first season, and he LOVES it! He has a smile on his face every time he comes off the ice.

Who is your child's favorite Hockey Player? His favorite player is Marek Svatos because he visited the kids for a clinic.

Favorite Music or past-time? Ethan also plays soccer, and loves scoring goals.

Accomplishments/Awards. He is 4 years old and is very excited to start kindergarten next year. He's a clever and funny little guy who believes that he is the red Power Ranger and would be happy to show you his moves!

Trent Nitta #8

Current Team: 8U - A Black

How long has your child been a Jaguar? This is Trent's first season of hockey. He completed 3 levels of skating before joining the team.

Who is your child's favorite Hockey Player? His favorite player is Joe Sakic, his 2nd favorite player is his dad.

Favorite Music or past-time? Trent loves playing outside with his friends and loves riding his bike.

Accomplishments/Awards. Trent played soccer for 3 years prior to giving hockey a try.



New Logo

January 24th was a very special day for Hyland Hills Hockey Association. The new logo was revealed and released to the association and local hockey media. This date was chosen to honor our Bantam division teams, our most winning division. All the Bantam travel teams had games at our rink that afternoon, making it a good opportunity to recognize their play and invite the rest of the association to not only see the new logo, but also watch some of these games. The new logo is was designed by a graphics artist from APS who also worked on the design of many high profile professional team logos such as the Buffalo Sabres, the Atlanta Thrashers and the Jacksonville Jaguars. APS did a tremendous job with the design, being able to balance the fierceness of a jaguar for the older players with gentle features adequate for mini-mites. After a brief ceremony the logo was revealed



to a great ovation by a large group of HHA members and followers. A banner with the new logo was also revealed in between periods of one of the Bantam Games. This new design will be proudly worn by all our teams starting in the 2009-10 season. CCYHL, DNHL and 8U teams will have the privilege to sport the new logo on the new jerseys that will be introduced next season.

Coach Jeff Nitta #19

Started playing 10 years ago after I moved to Colorado from Detroit. Figure that! This is my 1st season coaching hockey but have coached soccer for the last 3 years. My favorite hockey player is also Joe Sakic. I currently play on an adult C1 team at the Promenade on Thursday nights In addition to hockey, I love to ride my bike and snowboard.



Michael Sandoval #7



Nickname: **Sweet Feet**

Birth Year: **2000**

What city do you live in? **Broomfield**

What is your favorite pre-game meal? **Pasta**

Favorite hockey song? **Fly Away - Lenny Kravitz**

Favorite hockey player? **Sidney Crosby**

What is your most memorable hockey moment? **Scoring my first hat trick this season against Arvada**

Eli Wilson #3

Nickname: **Ralphie**

Birth Year: **2001**

What city do you live in? **Arvada**

What is your favorite pre-game meal? **Pizza**

Favorite hockey song? **Runaway - Bon Jovi**

Favorite hockey player? **Sidney Crosby**

What is your most memorable hockey moment? **When I scored my first goal in Magness Area this season**



Parker Hebert #4



Nickname: **Pacman**

Birth Year: **2001**

What city do you live in? **Westminster**

What is your favorite pre-game meal? **Bananas**

Favorite hockey song? **We Will Rock You- Queen**

Favorite hockey player? **Marek Svatos**

What is your most memorable hockey moment? **When I scored my first goal**

Adam Albert #11

Nickname: Diesel

Birth Year: 2000

What city do you live in? Westminster

What is your favorite pre-game meal? Noodles

Favorite hockey song? We are the Champions - Queen

Favorite hockey player? Marcus Denis

What is your most memorable hockey moment? When I scored this season against Front Range



Bailey Sealey #12

Nickname: Hot Dog

Birth Year: 2000

What city do you live in? Westminster

What is your favorite pre-game meal? Pizza

Favorite hockey song? We Will Rock You - Queen

Favorite hockey player? Wayne Gretsky

What is your most memorable hockey moment? Hitting the cross bar in our first game this season



Hayden Sealey #2



Nickname: Sniper

Birth Year: 2000

What city do you live in? Westminster

What is your favorite pre-game meal? Bananas

Favorite hockey song? We Are the Champions - Queen

Favorite hockey player? Mark Svatos

What is your most memorable hockey moment? Hayden didn't give a favorite hockey moment, but Coach Al's is watching him stick handle through 3-4 players on the other team and making a perfect pass to his line mate in front of the net

Hockey Weekend Across America

Hyland Hills Hockey Association (HHHA) supports USA Hockey Weekend across America and will be celebrated on President's Day weekend, Feb. 13-15, 2009.

Hockey Weekend across America is a yearly initiative led by USA Hockey throughout the hockey community to celebrate the game to those involved and also to expose the game to new audiences while providing provide opportunities to those who haven't played before. USA Hockey, Inc. is the national governing body for the sport of hockey in the United States. As such, its mission is to promote the growth of hockey in America and to provide the best possible experience for all participants by encouraging, developing, advancing and administering the sport.

Each day of Hockey Weekend across America has a special theme to celebrate the game of hockey, and help introduce new fans to the game. All events are open to the public and will take place at Ice Center at The Promenade located at 10710 Westminster Blvd. in Westminster , CO.

BOD Meetings

- ◆ Upcoming BOD meeting is scheduled for March 9th. BOD meetings will be held the second Monday of every month starting at 6:00 pm in the party room at IPAC. All association members are invited and welcome to attend. For more information contact Kristy Matthias at kristymatthias@yahoo.com.

The Hyland Hockey News is published by Hyland Hills Junior Hockey Association

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