



Hyland Hockey News

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The April 2009 Hyland Hockey News is a Tribute to Scott Sheehan

Profile of a Leader:

Scott Sheehan Led Hyland To New Heights In Hockey

By Michael Whiteman-Jones

There are people who let things happen, and there are those who make things happen.

Recently retired HSHA President Scott Sheehan falls into the latter category, and people who have worked with him over the years say his creativity and strong work ethic will be sorely missed as the association's 2009-2010 season unfolds.

"Whatever Scott did, he always had Hyland's best interests in mind," says Dave Dygert, a longtime member of the Board of Directors. "It's like he built a new building. He worked with the board of directors and others at the time to put the bricks and mortar of the association into place. And he built it strongly enough that we shouldn't have to worry about it for a long time."

Service, Vision, Competitive Fire

Sheehan served on Hyland's board 12 years, serving as its president nine years. It's an amazing run—unparalleled at Hyland—and it's all the more remarkable because he took over the job at a time when the association was suffering a lot of financial and administrative turmoil. After initially helping to steady the association, Sheehan continued setting goals to rapidly move it forward. For example, he led the charge to implement a skating program for recreational hockey players, the Denver North Hockey League (DNHL), as well as a much-copied program for new skaters, Hyland's 8U program. He played a key role in the growth of the Colorado Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA), which



governs the state's youth hockey programs. He also helped found the Colorado Competitive Youth Hockey League (CCYHL), which oversees Front Range youth hockey, and served as its first president.

But if Sheehan's known for anything, it's for helping to put northern Colorado on the national

map in AAA hockey. Highly competitive by nature, Sheehan was tired of watching local kids leave the state or drive far south to play for the Pikes Peak Miners AAA hockey club in Colorado Springs when they turned 14- or 15-years-old. So he helped launch the Colorado Outlaws AAA hockey association—the Denver area's first major AAA hockey club (the Colorado Thunderbirds AAA club in south Denver was created later)—and fought to make it a nationally ranked program that played at youth hockey's highest competitive levels.

The Outlaws shut down at the end of the 2008-2009 season to make way for a fledgling AAA program tentatively called the Colorado Tier Hockey Association (CTHA). It's backed by Hyland and three other north-area youth hockey associations in Arvada, Boulder and Fort Collins. . The new organization hopes to hire a director, assistant director and coaches and then receive CAHA's approval in time to begin recruiting talent and conduct tryouts this spring and summer.

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It's an extremely tight schedule, especially for a new club that says it's aiming to hit the ground as the lead AAA club among the state's fiercely competitive AAA associations, and success isn't guaranteed. But although Sheehan will no longer be directly involved in AAA hockey by the time the new season begins, he says he will watch the CTHA's progress closely, because it follows the same vision the Outlaws were founded on back in 2001. The same four organizations came together in the second year of the Outlaws in 2002. But, for different reasons the other clubs fell away and Sheehan says it's good to see that they have now come back in the best interest of the players. He has served as advisor to Hyland's leaders behind the scenes on tasks critical to the CTHA's long-term success.

Sheehan's commitment to youth hockey made him invaluable to Hyland. Although he resigned once before in April 2005 so that he could focus on his career, he was asked to re-join the board almost immediately, and soon re-assumed the role of board president. His leadership during this time helped stabilize the association as its day-to-day leadership transitioned from former Hockey Director Tyson Davis to current Hockey Director Brian Sutton.

This Time It's Real

But this time Sheehan vows it's real. He says he decided to quit when his term expires this April partly because he wants to devote more attention to his daughter, Callie, who is a competitive figure skater, but also because the timing finally seemed right; his oldest son, Mike, is pursuing a career as a professional hockey referee and his younger son, Dan, graduates from the Colorado Outlaws AAA program this year and moves on to junior hockey.

Widely respected as an intelligent, good-hearted leader with a strong sense of purpose and the willpower to get things done, Sheehan will be missed.

"Scott brought his special brand of intelligence, energy, salesmanship and passion for the kids and the game to Hyland Hills at the most crucial time in the association's development and growth," former HSHA Treasurer Dwight Such says. "His hours were incalculable, his determination and energy immeasurable, and his positive nature almost beyond belief. The hockey programs he helped develop and the business policies and procedures, including the involvement of the professionals that were critical in the development process of the business end of the work were, and remain, invaluable and essential."

CAHA Vice President Bryan Irely agrees that Sheehan is a rare individual.

"He had an underlying passion for youth hockey," Irely says. "He was focused, intense and he could think outside the box. And he always found a way to get things done. There aren't a lot of people like him who can persevere."

A Hockey Newbie

Despite his many achievements in hockey, Sheehan admits he knew little to nothing about the sport until his sons started playing as young boys (Mike's an '85, Dan's a '90). He's plenty athletic and played football, baseball and basketball growing up, but not hockey. Still, he came to love the sport and wanted to be more involved. But "it became apparent to me fairly quickly that I wouldn't be coaching," he says with a laugh.

After Sheehan's family moved to Colorado and his boys joined Hyland, he saw an opportunity to help lead the association.

"Issues over ice time and financial problems had created a lot of interest in the Board of Directors," he says. "I figured I could sit around and complain or I could get involved." Sheehan's well-liked and highly organized wife, Colleen, also immersed herself in association operations. She still works in the hockey office as registrar and administrator, a job she plans to keep for at least one more year.

Today, Sheehan says he's proud of the role he played in Hyland's progress.

"I can remember back in 1995 when we couldn't get enough kids to field a Midget team," he says. "Now we have 10 teams at the Midget level. We helped kids discover the sport, develop a lifetime love of it that keeps them playing through high school and beyond. People want to play here. They're proud to wear the black and orange. I see good coaches coming back year-to-year. I see new coaches coming to the area and choosing us as their new home first or second. Coaches want to coach here, and I think their dedication and devotion to our kids is second to none. And our teams are winning lots of championships because of them."

Looking Back - Looking Forward - A Time to Reflect

As I prepare for my last BOD meeting with the Hyland Hills Hockey Association I am asked to put down some final thoughts. Where do I start after fourteen years with twelve on the BOD and nine as President?

First and foremost, I would like to recognize and thank my entire family. If it weren't for Dan and Mike, then I would have never come to be at Hyland and hopefully (seemingly) they have come through in positive ways. They played at all levels from B to AAA – they worked hard and earned their way. Mike is now giving back as a Referee (yes, I let him in the house) and Dan will continue to play in Junior hockey. Callie paid the biggest price given that my time for figure skating was limited...I did spend enough time to know how that she takes off going forward on a double-axel (for you hockey bums - that's rare). I plan to spend more time with her and her sport next year. I could fill the newsletter with accolades about Colleen, but the best way of describing what she went through is that she had to listen to me after everyone else went home.

There are way too many people who made Hyland strong and continue to make Hyland strong. There are so many different board members, hockey directors, assistant directors, coaches, team managers, members, players, rink managers and bar tenders to even think about starting to mention names. What makes a team strong hockey team on the ice also makes a team strong support team off the ice and we had some very good teams then and now.



Old Barn on 92nd & Raleigh

I go back to a time at the “old barn” on 92nd and Raleigh. Like most “old hockey barns” they are filled with fond memories. The small locker rooms with one shower – the hallway walk to the rink - the puck going under the zamboni doors (10 times a game) -

the Crow's nest scoreboard where you could really get in the refs ear. We used to wait until January after the Mountains & Plains winter meeting to know what place we were in the standings and then wait on phone calls through March to see if we had any teams make playoffs. No Pointstreak with instant results, barely even e-mail (now that's a good thing!). Hyland didn't have many teams making playoffs in those days, so yes we are a club complete with our own hard knocks stories. We were lucky to get two touches a week for our AA teams and we only had two at Peewee and Bantam. Oh yeah, did I mention that the topic wasn't AAA – it was BBB. The top Squirt team was Squirt BBB back then.

Mountains & Plains was the name of the league before we became part of the CCYHL – check out the old banners in the rink. Hyland was a big part of this new CCYHL league and I am privileged to have served as its first President. Change is never easy and the creation of the CCYHL was no exception. It took a strong team of the original eight member clubs and it was my first experience working with other hockey people in the state. Some of these hockey people that many of you will recognize, because they are still giving to Colorado hockey today. The CCYHL has grown to 11 clubs with teams that have annual successes at the national level. Through the formation of the CCYHL emerged the CDYHL and people who helped grow youth hockey in the less populated outlying communities. This is a task equally admirable when we consider the numbers.

Fast forward to the news about a new rink...could it really be? This would be a new era for Hyland Hills Hockey. We were getting a new rink, so we needed new uniforms and a new nickname. We took a vote



("A Time to Reflect" Continued from page 3)

Of the players and officially became the Jaguars—can't even remember the other options. Now what? We got all this ice and more players—where do we get coaches? What else would anyone do, but hire two Irish kids named O'Leary followed by a young Canadian named Tyson.



More teams, more ice, more players, teams start winning. Hey, this is fun! What next? Well, how about we start a "house" league. Get a bunch of kids in here on Saturday and Sunday—make the program inexpensive (relatively speaking). That was the beginning of the

DNHL, which has become a league of its own that is now paralleled by the C-470 league. The Jaguars have over 200 players in this program and one of the largest in the state.

Then one day, Tyson and I are standing in a rink in Burnaby and a scout asks, "You guys going to get AAA in Colorado?" He continued, with "you got some good players down there – get them to AAA and we'll start scouting them." Well, we had this group called the Colorado Outlaws who were playing at Whistler in the summer – let's expand it to Midget AAA. Not the most popular guys in town at the time, but four state and regional championships later and the Outlaws were for real. We should point out that the Outlaws were not the first – that honor belongs to a little known group (at the time) in Colorado Springs called the Pikes Peak Miners and a team out of Vail. The Outlaws were the first club in the Denver metro area though and that raised the attention level and formation of Littleton AAA, then the Rampage, the Thunderbirds and now the CTHA.



No more Mite travel! What? You heard us – no more Mite travel. This was the end of the world. How will our 8-year olds get seen? They'll never learn off-sides! Well, that was the beginning of the 8U program, which is now close to 200 players at Hyland. We learned to adapt – to teach skills – to create Jamborees. Mites become Midgets and we had 10 teams playing Midget hockey in 2008-2009, which is up from 1 in 1995 at the old barn. Something I am

proud to be part of is that more kids are staying in the game – perhaps a little less pressure on our 5-8 years old is adding to this retention.

Total Hockey! What's that? Well, it's this off-ice training program where kids get to develop their hockey skills, movement and muscular skills that will make them better on the ice. Can't we do that in the basement or the garage? Hyland Hills has taken a leadership position in this program by making it part of a complete hockey program. From what we hear the response has been positive within and outside of the HSHA which is leading to talks about bigger and better facilities in Colorado.

What's next? Girls hockey?

So, we went from the old single sheet barn on 92nd to a state of the art 3-sheet facility surrounded by amenities. We have one of the most complete programs in the state with 8U, DNHL, CCHL and AAA to include on-ice and off-ice training. USA Hockey has presented a new program called the "American Development Model" (ADM) and a portion called "High Performance Clubs" (HPC) that includes both on-ice and off-ice training. And, while there are a lot of questions to be addressed, the HSHA is actually positioned and structured as good as any club to adapt to this new model. CTHA (new HSHA AAA Affiliation) is positioned for the HPC. Change! Let's not be afraid – we've been down that path before – we've been pioneers before and we can help lead change again.

To my fellow board members, future board members and hockey director: Be strong. Be positive. Be passionate. Trust in each other. Trust in yourselves. Most importantly, be a team! Right or wrong, I worked by the 95/95 rule (my version). You can only expect that 95% of your decisions will be best for everyone. You can expect that 100% of your decisions will only make 95% of the membership happy (at-best). Don't spend 95% of your time worrying about the 5%. You will make mistakes and you can correct them – just in time to make new ones. But, work for the 95%. When you're sitting in the party room until midnight, look out the window to the ice rink and remember why you're there – it's for the game and the kids playing the game. Are you spending time on hockey? Are you spending time making the game better?

To my fellow Jaguar members: Enjoy the game. Enjoy your children. I used to say often that as an organization we're dealing with two things our parent members love the most – their kids and their money. A recipe for a lot of passion and a lot of emotion and not all bad – it is your club, so put that energy into building your organization to be a great place for all the kids. If you played sports – get involved – you have a lot to offer. Trust, respect and understand the position of the coaches and team managers (oh yeah - and the referees). Remember that our coaches are there because they love the game. They are the ones with 40 eyes staring at them for answers and leadership - no time to consult on a decision. None of us got a handbook when we became parents – we made mistakes and so will they – support them. They have to be tough with our kids and we get to see it. Support

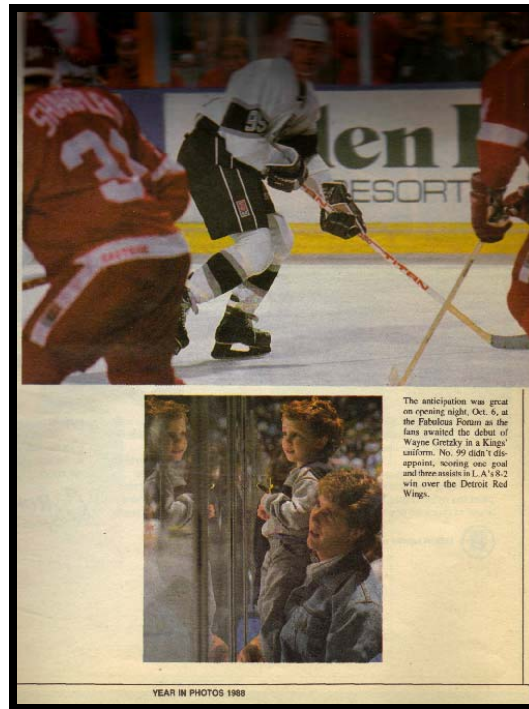
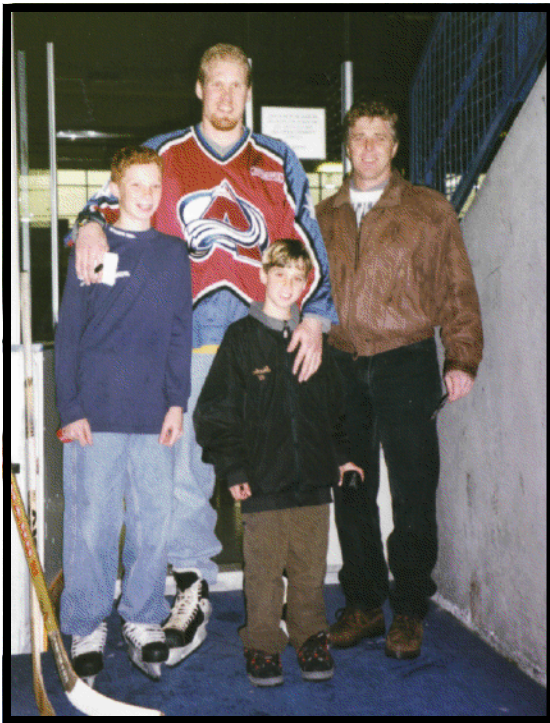
your club by going to the monthly meetings. You may not always agree with the decisions the board makes, but if you are there to hear the discussions, then you might at-least understand why the decision was made.

Team Managers: Thank you!

Coaches: Here's to you! Thank you!

Hyland Hills hockey and Colorado hockey will be with me forever. My best friends in life come from this game and that will never change. See you at the rink or in Benders!

Scott Sheehan
BOD President



The anticipation was great on opening night, Oct. 6, as the Fabulous Forum as the fans awaited the debut of Wayne Gretzky in a Kings' uniform. No. 99 didn't disappoint, scoring one goal and three assists in L.A.'s 8-2 win over the Detroit Red Wings.

YEAR IN PHOTOS 1989



“At the End of the day....”

As we recognize Scott Sheehan’s “retirement” from the HSHA Board of Directors. The question that remains unanswered is “At the End of the Day” will this be the last that HSHA will hear from Scott Sheehan? Rumor has it that Scott is looking for a 2004 birth year player to “adopt” with no financial liability, so he can remain active in HSHA for years to come!

Enjoy the many stories, comments and quotes recognizing Scott for his tremendous service to youth hockey in Colorado.

Dave Evens
BOD Vice President

"It truly amazing what Scott Sheehan has done for HSHA. From moving to the new rink, building AAA hockey and giving Hyland a voice at the state level, HSHA would not be where it is without his extraordinary efforts! Thank you for all you have done, Scott."

Tyson Davis, HSHA’s former Hockey Director

Scott,

It’s hard to believe that you have served for 12 years on this board. Twelve years ago, Mike was 11, Dan was 6 and Callie was 4 – where does the time go? We certainly have seen a lot of changes and growth within this association during those years and you made a lot of it happen. You also made it easy to be the President’s wife – you kept the board business within the board (which was good because when members came to me for information – I didn’t have any) and most of the time I would learn Hyland news from outsiders! It wasn’t as easy to have you as my employer though, because you would never speak up to the rest of the Board for me and Diane (probably the only time you had nothing to say about something) – that’s why we had to wait 4 years for a raise!!! But you weren’t on the Board to serve me, you were there for the players and that was evident in everything that you accomplished to make the sport of hockey better in the State of Colorado. Also, as the Past President of the Rocky Mountain Figure Skating club, I want to say thank you for helping to create a great relationship between the clubs that allowed both clubs to exist in the best facility around. I learned in my travels around the country that this is rare (yes, some people might say that it is because you were sleeping with the President – but I say “whatever gets the job done”).

In my unbiased opinion, the Association was lucky to have you for so long as a leader and mentor – you’ve given them a foundation to be successful for many years to come.

Colleen Sheehan, HSHA Registrar/Office Admin.

Scott, you are a good guy. Hyland will miss your vision, intelligence and enthusiasm more than it knows. It's extremely hard to find bright people who are willing to dedicate so much of their lives to something that demands so much time with so little reward. Must be weird to be extracting yourself from an organization you played a major role in growing. I wish you all the best. Call me sometime if you think of it.

Michael Whiteman-Jones

“ Good leaders make people feel that they're at the heart of things, not at the periphery. Everyone feels that he or she makes a difference to the success of the organization. When that happens people feel centered and that gives their work meaning”

After serving a dedicated twelve years on the board of the Hyland Hills Hockey Association, Scott Sheehan is about to retire. He will be sorely missed by all of us. Scott Sheehan put countless hours into making sure that HSHA was always on top and the players were getting the best training available. Scott Sheehan was a pillar of strength that keeps Hyland Hills strong for many years. I only wish I could tell you about the hundreds, even thousands of hours, Scott put in to making HSHA a better place for all players. He spent countless hours on the phone making sure teams had the right ice times, scheduling tournament times and finding better ways to work more ice from Bob. If you have ever seen a Scott Sheehan spread sheet, you know how much time he has put into the development and continued success of HSHA. I have never in my life seen a more detailed spreadsheet than one he puts together every year.

Through the good times and bad times Scott never gave up and was always ready to get the work done no matter how long it took. I can remember when HSHA first got into AAA hockey in the State. Scott took this project on and worked up budgets, found coaches, found a director and made sure that the *Outlaws* would succeed. During this time Scott never lost sight of HSHA and how it would benefit the association.

I do not know anyone, past or present, which has fought more for this association than Scott Sheehan. I have to say, Scott has always put HSHA first when it came to finding better ways to develop the players. Scott was a pioneer in the hockey world; other associations are now using the structure that he implemented in HSHA. It is Scott's visions that help grow AAA hockey in the State of Colorado.

Scott is a man of details. He looked at everything with a critical eye, to ascertain where the association was weak. He then figured out how to make those areas stronger, so that the association could grow. He enhanced the positive experience a family and player(s) would have in the association.

I am going to miss Scott's mid-night and 3:00am e-mails. I am going to miss the conversations we had about how the association was doing and what we could do to make it better. I would encourage anyone to sit down with him (if he is not working) and talk about how HSHA was founded and how it grew from a small association to what we are today; it is truly amazing. The one thing he would not tell you is that he was a huge part of that transformation.

Scott, we will miss you at the BOD (meeting might be shorter) and around the rink. We thank you for all that you have done to make this association great. So let's get together in the bar and talk hockey.

Brian Sutton, Director HSHA

HHHA has had steadfastly committed ambassador in Scott Sheehan. Scott has promoted and advanced the organization to one of the largest and most diverse programs in Colorado. The organization has come a long way from the old rink to the SMS rink in Westminster that is without a doubt the finest facility in the state.

Scott and I worked closely as two of the first three board members in developing the CCYHL and having it sanctioned as a "league" by CAHA. That process turned out to be an interesting and formidable battle with the CAHA Executive Committee as well as and the organizations that now form the CDYHL. After several months, hundreds of e mails, dozens of meetings, which finally took us all the way to the USA Hockey Youth Council we finally won that battle and the CCYHL was born. That battle and Scott's urging was one of the reasons that I ultimately decided to serve as CAHA President. I may never forgive Scott for convincing me that I would be a good fit for that role but maybe with time I can hold less of a grudge.

My son, Tracy and Mike Sheehan played for the Outlaws a few years ago and to be just a team parent along with Scott was one of the most pleasurable times I have experienced being around hockey. It was a time that we could relax and actually enjoy hockey rather than worrying about the administrative side of the sport. The team went to Nationals and played the Marquette Electricians, who hosted the tournament, in the game immediately after the opening ceremonies. The Outlaws beat Marquette in overtime in that game. There were at least 4000 locals in the stands that night and you could have heard a pin drop when the puck went in the net to end the game.

In all sincerity I appreciate Scott's passion for the sport and for constantly looking for new ways to improve the way we approach teaching kids the game of hockey. It is a huge time commitment and personal sacrifice to work at hockey as long and as diligently as Scott has and HHHA was fortunate to have such a dedicated volunteer among its leadership for so many years. I respect Scott as a hockey leader and consider him a good friend.

Even though I have worked hard on Scott to get him to listen as much as he talks I will miss working with him in the future!

Regards,

Bryan Irely – USA Hockey District Director and CAHA Board Member

Scott and I go back a long way, I met him in Vail, he was filming either Michael or Danny in a Mini Mite game ,sat down next to him and he wouldn't talk to me. I knew right then I liked him. Now he leaves Hyland, but I know he will be around and doing things behind the scene. But we all owe Scott a big Thank you. He has such a dry sense of Humor, he is not much of a red sox fan, so as I was painting his house he put a Box of Cocoa Crispies in the window so I could see it. You see what I mean. . . . Off the wall stuff. This man has followed me from Manchester Airport to the Dark back roads of Barnstead New Hampshire to have Pizza with my sister and brother in law at 12am. Now That's a Friend. Our Families have sat down out eat and had dinner, My Father, sisters ,brothers, cousins and nephews. Now That's a Friend. And I have Mistakenly, on St. Paddys Day, by ACCIDENT, poured Corn Beef Juice down the Back of his shirt. And He Laughed . . . Now That's a Friend.

Thank you Scott for the Friendship,

A Life Long Friend, Michael Gaffney

I remember first seeing Scott in action at CAHA mid-winter and annual meetings years ago. He and a designated wingman (sometimes 2) would position themselves across from each other in the room, usually leaning up against the wall and then the fun would begin. Whatever their issue was for that meeting, the two would ping-pong comments back and forth in getting their point across to the members. This was very intimidating for whoever might be on the receiving end of the comments and to a newbie like me to the Colorado hockey scene, but it was always informative and thought provoking.

Over the years, Scott has been a workhorse for Colorado youth hockey since he came on the scene. He has been an invaluable asset to Hyland Hills and his contributions to youth hockey are too numerous to list. His work as a scheduler and his ability to get things done and shake things up are well known.

Scott – Thanks for all you have done for the youth hockey players of Colorado.

Brenda Rawal
CCYHL President

“A leader is someone who compels others to positive action by the power of their own positive action”

I remember one Saturday morning during the Silver Stick tournament back in 1997 or 1998. My brother and I were running a little shooting range during the tournament and chatting up friends and parents, when Scott came over to us and excitedly mentioned that he was considering joining the Board of Directors at Hyland. Scott asked us if we thought it was a good idea. We knew that Scott was a funny and charming guy with a good head and so we both told him to go for it. Never in a million years did either of us anticipate the huge contribution that Scott would make to the Colorado hockey environment.

His list of accomplishments is huge. He was instrumental in the start of the Colorado Competitive Youth Hockey League. Through the creation of the CCYHL, Scott brought order to what was previously a very complicated mess of youth sports politics and maneuvering. Scott was integral in the development of the Hyland Hills Hockey Association. He took Hyland from around 250 members to over 500. The growth of the organization would not have been possible if Scott wasn't willing and able to give his time. His mastery of the hockey association budget has kept us afloat through today and charted the course for years to come. Scott was the catalyst for the launch of “AAA” hockey in the state of Colorado both through the Colorado Outlaws and their competitors. Last, but not least, Scott developed an organized schedule that we still use for the CCYHL today. While these are some of his major achievements, the number small but excellent ideas that he was able to come up with on a day in, day out basis is staggering.

Most of us know Scott as a rabid hockey fan. There is no one more fun to talk to at a rink when the game is going on than Scott. He offers a straight opinion, and will often times let the refs hear it. He is a kid in a candy store when the game is on the line, when hockey is at its most exciting. We will all picture him standing on the glass, shifting his weight from one foot to the other filling the ear of anyone who stands near him with his cheers for the team. I will miss watching him get excited about a game.

Scott is the consummate volunteer. He has never received compensation for his thousands of hours (maybe even tens of thousands of hours) of time. He is one of those individuals that seems to have more hours in the day than the rest of us. Between his flights to Asia and his daughter's figure skating he has always found a way to give his time, thought, attention and energy to the hockey experience of countless families, most of whom he has never even met. There is no one single person that has had a larger impact on Colorado Hockey both 10 years ago and today than Scott. He is a great friend and a person that we should all admire and respect. I know that I most certainly do.

Jamie O'Leary

I first met Scott back in '95 when Colleen had registered Daniel in learn to skate. Michael was a Squirt that year. They seemed new to the area and very happy to find a hockey club for their kids. His energy and enthusiasm was always visible, by stopping to chat with the coaches and other parents. What I witnessed was the emergence of a dynamic leader, willing to take charge and find the right path for improvement.

The following year the Initiation program was one third of the total hockey association and when you are doing all this on one sheet of ice it creates some friction. However, Scott was busy working in the background learning the infrastructure of Hyland Hills. In '97 Scott became the statistician for Hyland. By this time he was already becoming a recognized voice to board members. The hockey association was also in financial trouble and in '98 Scott was elected President of HSHA. Most people would shy away from the burden, but Scott announced a plan built a team and set out to right the ship, and begin to demonstrate how partnering works with local associations, our affiliate CAHA, the Parks and Recreation district, and the City of Westminster as we embarked on a new adventure growing the association and becoming a benchmark for operations management.

Because we transitioned to the Promenade, Scott recognized a huge opportunity and stepped into CAHA to form the Colorado Competitive Youth Hockey League. We were now playing Tier hockey throughout the league. Let me also mention that Scott had also taken over as ice scheduler. At this point I'd like to say, God bless you Colleen. I know how much time is sacrificed to support someone who sacrifices so much time. In the ensuing years we have made many adjustments to our overall programs, but Scott was never deterred from a course of excellence. We have expanded in so many areas of endeavor that it's hard to enumerate. From coaching, to ice management, to operations he always has one goal in mind. Make it fun for the kids to make them better.

I know my little story is in reference to time. That made it easy to organize and catalogue events. I can also say that I have known every president of the association with the exception of its first three. Without hesitation I know that Hyland Hills Hockey has been blessed with great leadership in Scott Sheehan and in my book is hands down the best president we have ever had. Your presence will be missed but please know that you laid the foundation for this hockey club and set a great standard for those who follow.

Mic Prochazka

What can I say, we have had our battles over the past 12 years but I say that with utmost respect. Scott has done so much for youth hockey around the state and his scheduling expertise is second to none. I remember all of our battles from the CCYHL to AAA hockey. Scott and Colleen served as my team manager in 2003-2004 when our Midget Major AAA team finished 5th in country at that National Tournament. They both did a terrific job handling all of our managerial responsibilities. Scott and I got a long so well because we are both very anal about getting things done and I have great respect for people that get things done!

Scott, I know the CAHA/CCYHL will miss all of your energy and insight. Personally, I will miss working with you on the various levels. Thanks for being such a committed volunteer to youth hockey. All the best with your future endeavors. Hyland Hills was lucky to have such a dedicated person working and battling for them.

Sincerest Regards,

Angelo Ricci, Director LHA

"If your actions inspire others to learn more, do more, and become more involved, you are a leader!"

Where does one begin when it comes to their recollections of Scott Sheehan and the impact that he has had on HHHHA? For me it all began at the first HHHHA annual meeting that I attended in what is now the HHHHA Office. There was Scott, giving a passionate response regarding HHHHA and its future. I do not recall the subject matter that was being discussed, but it was that passion and Scott's dedication that will define Scott's time of service to, and for, HHHHA in my mind.

Scott has made the analogy to me that he personifies the saying "that if he is on your team you love him, and if you play against him you don't." I for one have considered it a pleasure to have Scott on my team, and while our "competition" may not always agree with Scott they certainly respect the passion in which Scott advocates for HHHHA and for what he believes.

HHHA has benefited from Scott's dedication in his volunteerism as association scheduler, CCYHL scheduler, CCYHL representative, CAHA representative, and HHHHA Board President. During his tenure at HHHHA the association has grown two fold, seen the creation of the DNHL, formalization of the 8U IP program, the creation of the CCYHL and bringing AAA to Northern Colorado.

HHHA has most definitely seen the benefits of Scott's passion and his dedication and I for one am grateful for the association that HHHHA has become during his tenure.

Dave Evens. BOD Vice President

About 12 years ago I attended the CCYHL Scheduling Meeting. This was my first experience with the headaches faced by the association schedulers as well as my first contact with Scott Sheehan, Polly Buster and Jim Hillier. From the beginning, it was easy to see that Scott had put a lot of time and effort into organizing the meeting and providing all of us with game templates for every division we needed to schedule. I thought we were doing pretty well until Rick Ryder and I sat down to schedule our games with Hyland. Once again, Scott's organizational skills came through. Not only did that man know the dates of every tournament the Hyland coaches were planning on attending he knew the dates and times their work schedule would prevent them from being at a game. While poor Rick Ryder was looking for the ice times to schedule our home games with Hyland, I was busy taking notes on the way Scott laid out his information and the rationale he used to ensure the game times agreed upon worked for his coaches and teams. Following Scott's lead made the remainder of my scheduling years much easier. As everyone knows, those scheduling meetings are tough.....we do eat our young!

Mary Davern

It's been an honor serving on the HHHHA Board of Directors along side Scott. Scott has been a great passionate leader who's always stood for what he believed was best for the Association he served for 12 years. His experience and knowledge of Colorado Hockey and its personalities along with his dedication and hard work will sorely be missed by those who remain serving HHHHA.

I hope that Scott remains a close advisor of the team he has lead for so many years. My best wishes go to Scott and his family as they "graduate" from hockey. Scott, I'm sure we'll continue to see you at rinks around Denver. I just hope the past decade has not beaten you to submission and you turn into ice skating for solace.

Ed Coca, BOD Director of Rules & Regulations

I have had the distinct pleasure of getting to know Scott this past year being on the Board of Directors, and find him to be extremely devoted to the players who attend Hyland Hills Hockey Association. Scott is a true, world-class leader that is not easily found in the world today.

I am very impressed with his dedication and commitment to have regular communication with the Board of Directors, parents, players, and members. Scott has demonstrated his passion for hockey on many levels including the foundation for AAA hockey in Colorado. Scott displays a strong devotion to Hyland Hills and always had the association's best interest at heart. Scott has spent many hours representing Hyland's interest amongst the Hockey community not to mention the: schedule, daily e-mail responses, the dreadful budget... the list could go on forever.

Scott has an impressive knowledge of Hockey and an even better amazing leadership style. Scott is quick at establishing unity with every member and builds an environment where all members feel welcomed, wanted and appreciated.

Scott has a great sense of humor and is very personal that makes talking with him easy. Scott always took the time to listen to everyone's concerns and was willing to make adjustment that needed to be made for the betterment of the association while providing empowering advice for all to resolve on their own. Scott is a strong leader that stands firm in all decision-makings and encourages and inspires all to contribute to the process. (*"At the end of the day, you need to decide..."*) Scott was always seeking to find members that had a variety of strengths to help Hyland maintain being the quality association that it is today.

I personally consider Scott to be one of the most talented and dedicated leaders Hyland has had through their doors. Scott will be truly missed by all members. I am confident that Scott's commitment to life long player skill development and his expertise as well as dedication will be forever present in Hyland. Hyland Hills is a better organization because of Scott's twelve years of dedication.

Thank you Scott!

Kristy Matthias, BOD Secretary

"A great leader's courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position."

I have many memories of Scott Sheehan especially after being around him for the last twelve years. My most vivid are of Scott's tenacity or should I say "pit bull" technique he used on everything from the CAHA to officials, coaches and hockey people in general. Sometimes good and sometimes not Scott always had the best interests of Hyland Hills in mind, and for that I respect Scott. Scott and I went head to head on many issues but have always seemed to be able to come back together for the next round. One of the nice things about both being named Scott was the fact that we could blame each other for certain things when the need arose, when that happened it was usually fun to watch what happened next. It will be hard to replace him and the association will miss his dedication, determination and knowledge as they move on without him. Truly a pioneer for the sport of hockey in Colorado and a good all around guy I wish Scott all the best as he moves on to other interests.

Scott Reynolds

Thank you Scott for all of your years of service for the betterment of Hyland Hills. You are and always will be an inspiration for me and the depth of your knowledge on hockey in the Rocky Mountain region is unparalleled. I hope that we can look to you for advise in the future. Best of luck in whatever road your travels take you.

Rob Cuscaden, BOD 8-Under Program Director

I have known Scott Sheehan for over 10 years. My son starting playing at Hyland Hills and Scott was the current president. He has always demonstrated leadership in many ways. Whether it was giving his opinion or offering solutions towards a problem that would arise. This could be at a CAHA annual meeting or a High Plains Hockey League Board Meeting. He had a way of making sure that everyone would benefit whether it be the kids or the associations that were involved. I do recall a situation in which Scott came to my rescue. During a HPHL league game, our high school team was playing a rival team. The referees and opposing team manager did not know the complete rule. And to be honest I was not clear of the rule myself. Scott came running over because he could tell that something was up. The managers from the other team had convinced the referees that we would have to forfeit the game. He was able to recall the rule word for word and convinced the referees that they had interpreted the rule incorrectly. I went home and looked the rule up in the USA hockey annual guide and he had in fact gotten the rule correctly word for word. There were many situations similar to this that proved to me his knowledge of the game and his ability to help with the development of youth hockey.

Thanks for all your years of dedication and hard work.

Calvin Abila

My first thought when I heard that Scott was leaving his position as President of Hyland Hills Hockey was; Isn't it ironic that all the great presidents are leaving office, first George Bush and now Scott Sheehan - No wonder our economy is in a shambles and hockey equipment costs so much :)

On a more serious note, Scott has been great to work with, both as President and as scheduler. He understands the intricacies involved in scheduling at the Ice Centre and has been great to work with. I appreciate the countless hours he has put in and his constant availability to deal with issues even when he has been out of the country.

He will surely be missed by me and the rest of the Ice Centre staff and we wish him and his family all the best in the future.

Bob Bebber

What do you say that can't be said already, whether a whisper at a board table or a shout at a CAHA meeting. Scott has seen it all, done it all and knows it all....just ASK him he WILL tell you....better yet don't ask as we will need to listen to him again!

Seriously though....he kinda has, and does know it all or most of it. He has said what has needed to be said, right or wrong and most of all when he says it will get done. I T DOES! Class act in my book. I would work for or with Scott any day, and damn glad to be on his side, not, him against you.

If you can tell a persons worth by if they will be missed? Scott is worth a million then....why he will be missed, well that's up to you!

Thank you Mr. Sheehan.

John Seymour

My family would like to thank you for all that you have done and provided in your 14 years of serving on the Board. It is only through the efforts of people like you that thousands of kids were raised through the sport of hockey and the doors of Hyland Hills.

We have fond memories of those years. I especially remember all of the road trips. Your short stint as head coach in Salt Lake City stands out, while risking life and limb in an ice storm just to get there! Who could forget the sight of you covered in mud, from digging your van out of a ditch in a blizzard and then how gracious you were to share your room with another parent going to Casper because SHE did not have one? The shooting of TV commercials with Av's players and coaches. Do you remember "Have a great, big, nice day"? And of course, we shared many Board meetings and hours, even days, of email correspondence just to keep it all interesting.

Scott, thank you for all that you have done for my family and thousands of others. You will be missed by the Association. How will they do it without you?!

Enjoy all of your new-found time.

Sincerely,

Jerry, Tami, Sean, Nick and Vinny Kramer

My first memory of Scott was at the first board of directors meeting that I had ever attended. The meetings were held at the restaurant at the golf course- way back when. At the time Scott was newer to the association and not yet on the board of directors. He sat in the front row, leaning forward, asking questions, and being very much part of the entire meeting. He has never stopped being very involved, and what I have always admired is the way he has always looked out, not only for his own kids, but of each and every Hyland kid. For all of the time and energy he has put into hockey in the state – it is amazing that he has been able to hold a full time (traveling) job, too.

Scott, Thank You for all of your years of dedication to all of the families of Hyland through the years. I know my family has benefitted. No ones blood is oranger than Scott's.

Diane Wirth, HSHA Player Accounts/Office Admin.

PASSION – Scott Sheehan

Scotts Sheehan's passion for Hyland Hills has impressed me over the years. The more I get to know Scott I am truly amazed by his devotion to all of the players at Hyland Hills. Scott spends numerous hours working on schedules, budgets, and communicating with others all in an effort to make Hyland Hills the best for our membership. Scott has always fought at all levels for what he felt was best for HSHA, whether it was a popular view by others or not. He has challenged many including those outside HSHA to make youth hockey better across the state. Because of this Hyland Hills has been an innovator in the state at many different levels including the DNHL recreation hockey, the current 8U program, and AAA hockey.

Scott always has the player's best interest at mind. He strives to insure that all of the other ambassadors of the game at HSHA do the same. Scott always reminds us that when we are making decisions that we need to consider what is best for the player and the association before making a final decision. Sometimes this can be difficult but I know Scott is right and I will strive to always remember this in the future. Scott's goal has always been to make sure the kids are playing the sport they love – HOCKEY!

The number of hours Scott has spent on Hyland Hills is too numerous to count. But to give an idea of the time Scott has put into the association begins with the amount of e-mails that he sends between mid-night and 3am. He is one of few people I know who must not sleep. Much of that time is spend on the ice schedules and budgets. If you have ever attended the annual meeting you have been privileged to see Scott's impressive schedule and budget spreadsheets. It will be a challenge for the next BOD member(s) that are responsible for these spreadsheets to at a minimum understand them and all their intricacies.

Scott takes such pride in the ice schedules that he doesn't sleep in order to make sure that every player gets their fair ice time. This shows in the player's invoices which rarely change drastically within the same season. I will always remember when Scott explained why he spends so much time on the schedule. He told a story of his childhood and how he never wants to see a player come to the rink to find out "It's not his/her turn to skate" and the look of disappointment on the little kids face. It brought tears to my eyes and again reminded me why we are here and obviously why Scott has done what he has for the last 12 years.

Scott is a huge asset to Hyland Hills and will be deeply missed, though something tells me he will be around. I know I have personally learned a lot from him and hope that I can continue to represent Hyland Hills in a way that honors what Scott has stood for. I will strive in my personal life to hold the same ethics and character that I have seen Scott display. Scott has showed Hyland Hills what being a true leader is all about and what we can achieve if we all work together for the kids!

Joanne Schmidt, BOD Treasurer

While our family has never had the pleasure of meeting Scott we would like to thank him for all the hard work and support for the Hylands Hockey Program. Our boys have LOVED being a part of Hylands and thanks to amazing volunteers like Scott they have had this experience. Thank you so much for all your time, efforts and commitment!

Wishing you all the best,

Sincerely,
The Herbst Family

I first met Scott a number of years ago when he asked to speak to me about a AAA program that was being structured. He was professional and real in his approach about what he and others were trying to develop in the north metro area. Unfortunately at the time I was much too busy to take him up on the invitation.

In the hockey environment and with my son playing the sport, I was involved with Boulder at the time as my son was playing there and from there went to Arvada as my family moved. During those years I was subtly referenced by people from other associations about the "Big, Bad Hyland Hills" association, and how they were the enemy!

Now I have been around the block a few times in both amateur and professional hockey circles and have always been turned off at the many sports parents who exhibit a jealous stance towards anyone or anything that is not benefiting their little Johnny. From Canada to Colorado...it is the same song, different theater.

Years after being first introduced to Scott and meeting him, I was invited back into the Outlaw program by Brian Sutton as it was being reintroduced to the north Denver hockey community. In my two years of helping rebuild the program I have gotten to know and appreciate Scott as a true driver. He has taken on more responsibilities with his personal family and professional work life, still handled very time consuming activities of scheduling etc with Hyland and as time allowed always has been creatively driving ways and means to further the interests of the AAA program. He has been intent on supporting the move to provide the kids in the north Denver metro area with a program of development and progression. He does not rest in his actions to move anything forward to a better and stronger position of strength because he has always viewed it as creating the best most professional environment for kids. Why else would anyone put the unrewarded time into any association that he has?.....because he is like many who commit their time and resources to provide a better place for their kids and the kids on hundreds of families. These are actions worthy of respect.

Over the years Scott has proven to be a wise leader in helping select two of the finest youth hockey Directors in the State of Colorado in Brian Sutton and Tyson Davis.....unarguably they have proven to be very good moves.

In thinking back on the comments of people who viewed HSHA as the enemy...it is clear to me that envy reigns supreme with many unfortunate people in this day and age, and the ominous Hyland Hills and the Outlaws that I was forewarned about has proven to be nothing but a great hockey family for me, my son and the hundreds of other boys who have chosen wisely to place their children here. Many, like me have Scott Sheehan to thank for his hand in moving forward a great Hockey organization and helping create a great environment for kids and families alike.

Thank you Scott,

Doug Smail

Scott, we will miss you at HSHA. There could not have been a better person to lead this association through its growth from the old rink to the great facility we have now. Your "handprint" is on the DNHL, Outlaws, 8 and under program, which were and are great programs. I wondered where your gray hair came from and it came down to one word: SCHEDULING. Since I've been scheduling some of the tournaments, I can really appreciate the hours of work you continually put into the schedule.

Your dedication to the players and the game of hockey will be missed. The best of luck to you and the Sheehan family.

Dave Dygert, BOD Tournament Director