



EAGLE TALK

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

From Otis Woods

Hello everyone. It was just over four months ago that we ended the last season. What a season it was! 2006-2007 proved to be one of our most successful seasons since Middleton split off to form its own organization. We go into the next season with the knowledge and confidence that as an organization we compete very well with the rest of the state and we truly are one of the powers in Region 4 of the Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association.

2007-2007 Year in Review

Multiple Championships

Southwest Hockey earned championships at the Squirt A, Pee Wee A, and High School 2 levels. In addition to these titles, we were consolation champions at the Squirt B, Pee Wee B and C, and Bantam B levels. Our continued success in state tournaments, we sent every team to State, is affirmation of the continued high quality of players, coaches, and committed families we have here at Southwest. Everyone is to be congratulated on the continued success of our organization.

Bantam Evaluations

2006-2007 was not without its concerns, however. We implemented a new evaluation system for the Bantam-level players. This change was necessitated by the Verona High School selection process and the desire not to nearly dismantle previously selected teams when VAHS completed its evaluation. Our members voiced their concerns about the process. For the coming year we will continue with the system we implemented in 2006-2007; however, we are looking for better and more efficient ways of managing the selection process for the preseason squads, as well as final selection for the two teams. This process is similar to those implemented by clubs within our region. We all face the same issues involving local high school tryouts.

Southwest Ice Allotment

We all noticed the scarcity of ice time for various teams last year. To prevent this issue from recurring in the upcoming season, Southwest is negotiating more favorable

ice allocation with the Ice Inc. Board of Directors, the governing body that oversees the management of Eagle's Nest Ice Arena. The Southwest Board has received and has commented on an initial proposal submitted by Ice Inc. At this time, we continue to have dialogue about what is best for Southwest as a major purchase of ice at Eagle's Nest.

Girl's Hockey Alliance

Many young ladies playing for Southwest had the opportunity to dual register with the Madison Ice Spirit. As expected in some cases and not in others, some played girls only. This is the ultimate goal of developing a girls-only program here at Southwest. Current numbers do not allow us to go out on our own. Again this upcoming season, the opportunity to skate with the Ice Spirit will be available. However, a major change in WAHA rules will not allow girls to play for two teams that are at the same level (e.g. U12 girls and Squirt). The young lady must choose one or the other at that level. It is possible, however, for her to skate at the Squirt level and, if accepted, play for a U14 girl's team. U14 and Squirt are not in the same level. The Ice Spirit program will have registration information available on the first day of Southwest Hockey registration, August 19, 2007 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM.

New Board Members

2006-2007 brought about the end of board experiences for four members and the beginning for four new members. Newly elected to the Board of Directors were CoCo Schauff, who replaces Dottie Horvath as the Board Secretary; Kevin Hughes joins the Southwest Board as a Squirt Age-Level Director; and Liz Hammen and Tim Brown will co-coordinate fund-raising efforts. Also leaving the board this year were Carl Makuch, who served as the Mite Age-Level Director, Tammy Fish, the Fundraising Coordinator, and Linda Pederson, the Concessions Coordinator of many years. The Board would like to thank Dottie, Carl, Tammy and Linda for all their dedicated work in support of running a top class hockey association. All your hard work and efforts will not be forgotten.

Please see current board assignments later on in the newsletter.

I am at the end of my brief comments. The rest of the publication contains valuable information about which members should be aware including:

- Preseason Conditioning Schedule.
- Player Evaluation Schedule.
- 2007-2008 Fee Structure.
- Coaches' Update.
- Girl's Program Update
- Volunteer Information.
- Fund-raising updates.
- And much more.

"Every day is a great day for hockey."

The late Bob Johnson

And finally,

"Families are ecosystems. Each life grows in response to the lives around it."

May Schmich, Columnist

Good Luck in 2007-2008 to all Southwest Hockey Teams.

Otis

REGISTRATION FOR 2007-2008

From Lori Bierman

2007-2008 Season Registration Information

There will be two registrations for the 2007-08 season. The first one will be **August 19th from 3-6 p.m.** and will consist of registration only. The second one will be **September 9th from noon to 5** and will consist of registration, a light meal and an open skate. The Board of Directors would like to get an idea of numbers of players, early on, so we would like to encourage you to register in August and come back in September and enjoy the food and the open skate. You can choose which registration you would like to come to. Either date, I will be collecting U.S.A. Hockey confirmation registrations, just like I have done in the past.

In order to register with Southwest you need to go to the U.S.A. Hockey website (www.usahockey.com) and click on the "register online" button. Choose member type player and coach. You must be 18 years of age to process a registration...Check the box that acknowledges that YOU are 18 or older. **Select the correct season – 2007-08.** Follow the prompts...fill in all the data correctly. The information you enter will be used to communicate with you throughout the season! Process payments - Visa,

Master Card, Discover or American Express (credit or debit card). You may print your confirmation page at this time. It also will be emailed to you immediately after the registration is completed. All players 7 and up will be charged a \$30 U.S.A. Hockey fee and a \$10 WAHA fee. Players 6 and under will not be charged but need to register with U.S.A. Hockey and still need to print a confirmation sheet. Register all players in your family.

If you do not have a credit card, consider purchasing a VISA gift card for the \$40 fee. If you do not have access to a computer, we will have some computers available at the Eagles Nest during both registrations as well as people to help you through the process. Please make sure and bring a credit card with you to registration. If you lose your confirmation page, additional confirmation pages can be requested from the Welcome page of on-line registration. Click on the puck in the upper left corner and enter the last name, date of birth and zip code. You can then print the page.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to email me at s.w.e.registrar.lb@hotmail.com. This pre-registration with U.S.A. Hockey facilitates getting player's rostered and getting current information to coaches and managers in a timely manner.

Thank you and HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

Lori Bierman
Registrar

Evaluations for 2007-2008

From Dave Kepler

Player Evaluations for 2007

On Thursday, October 4th our goalies kickoff the tryout process for the 2007-08 season with their skills session. We will be finished on Wednesday, October 10th and teams will be posted no later than Friday, October 12th.

Player evaluations will remain the same as last season's tryout format. Below is a description of how the process works.

Bantams – This age group will not go through the traditional SWE evaluation process. All players will be assigned to a Red or Black team to start the season. After High School tryouts have concluded (approx. Nov. 9th) the remaining players will take part in a two night tryout process. Members of the coaches committee will be assigned as evaluators. The teams will be determined soon after the last bantam practice of the week.

Bantam ALD, Scott Rasmussen, will be making tournament arrangements early for our two Bantam teams. Southwest will send tournament fees in for these teams with the understanding that these fees will be reimbursed from the respective team's budgets.

Tryout Sessions – It is important to make all 3 of these tryout sessions. If you cannot for any reason, you will not be placed on a team when tryouts conclude. You will attend the next age level practices for a week and be evaluated by the coaches on the ice.

Skills (1) – Players will be graded on the same five categories as they have in the past, those being forward skating, backward skating, stops and starts, puck control, and passing and shooting. All these skill drills have been passed on to the Verona High School Coaching Staff so they can implement them into our pre-season conditioning clinic.

Scrimmages (2) – The first scrimmage will be 3 on 3 cross - ice hockey. The last session of tryouts will be a 5 on 5 full - ice scrimmage. Pee wee scrimmages will include checking. We have broken the scoring into 2 different categories, offensive awareness and defensive awareness. This will force our evaluators to give two grades to each player instead of just one overall score. You will notice that the word awareness is used. The reason behind this is simple. Over 95% of the time a player is on the ice during a game situation, the puck is not on his/her sticks. With this in mind, we believe it is important to notice what players do without the puck, as well as with it. We also believe this will spur on better overall team play.

Southwest has always had what I consider a very fair and complete evaluation process. This process has evolved into pretty accurate way to place the kids in an environment where they will be successful yet challenged throughout the season in both practices and games.

Dave Kepler,
Vice President



2007-2008 EVALUATION Schedule

Date	Start	End	Age	Group (Last Name)	Session
Thursday	5:15	6:00	Squirt	All	Goalie Skills
10/4/2007	6:10	6:55	Pee wee	All	Goalie Skills
	7:05	7:50	Bantam	All	Goalie Skills
Saturday	7:30	8:20	Mites	A - L	Skills
10/6/2007	8:30	9:20		M - Z	Skills
Sunday	9:45	10:45	Squirt	A - P	Skills
10/7/2007	11:00	12:00		Q - Z	Skills
	12:15	1:15		A - J	Skills
	1:30	2:30	Pee wee	K - Z	Skills
Monday	5:30	6:45	Mites	All	3 X 3
10/8/2007	7:00	8:15	Squirt	All	3 X 3
Tuesday	5:30	6:45	Mites	All	5 X 5
10/9/2007	7:00	8:15	Pee wee	All	3 X 3
Wednesday	5:30	6:45	Squirt	All	5 X 5
10/10/2007	7:00	8:15	Pee wee	All	5 X 5

Ice Fees

From Joe Gastel

The 2007-2008 Budget has been finalized after many hours of discussion and planning. The budget this year includes a fairly large increase in ice expense along with a decrease in fundraising revenue from previous years. Ice is our biggest expense and is up 13% from last year. We also rely on our fundraising activity to help keep our skater fees down and we are identifying new fundraising activities to help generate revenue and offset the skater fees we pay.

The 2007-2008 Skater Fees are as follows:

Age Level	Fee
Ice Mice	125.00
Atoms	225.00
Rink Rat	295.00
Mite	625.00
Squirt	675.00
Pee Wee	860.00
Bantam	860.00
HSC	875.00

As was last year, skater fees are due at registration. We prefer that you pay the entire amount at the beginning of the season as it cuts down on the administrative costs of sending out and collecting a 2nd billing. Acceptable forms of payment are credit card, check or cash.

NEW FOR 2007-2008

If you are only planning on paying ½ of the fees at registration and have ice credits, please note that you will be responsible for ½ of the balance due after all ice credits are applied. This is a change from previous years in that the club allowed to apply full ice credits to the balance and use those credits as payment for the 1st half fees due. From an administrative standpoint, this was difficult to administer.

COACHES COMMITTEE

From Jim Feely

The Coaches Committee has started making plans for the upcoming season. We're in the process of setting up clinics, conditioning sessions, tryouts, and practice plans. Our staff of over fifty coaches is dedicated to helping our kids learn and love the great game of hockey. Last season was one of our best ever, and we're looking to continue our improvement as players, as coaches, as teams, and as a club.

Our annual in-house coaching clinic will be held on Thursday, September 27 at 6 pm at the Nest. The focus will be on teaching coaches how to teach hockey skills, organize effective practices, and make the experience fun for the kids. A special guest speaker will be joining us to talk hockey, and there will be some refreshments too. All Southwest coaches should plan to attend this fun and informative evening!

A USA Hockey Level 1 clinic will be held at the Rodeway Inn in Madison on Saturday, October 13, and Level 2 and 3 clinics will be held on Sunday, October 14. Registration must be done through the USA Hockey website. Check out the WAHA website for more coaching information as

well as the times and locations of the complete schedule of state clinics: www.wahahockey.com – click on Coaching Info. Southwest will reimburse the clinic registration fee upon successful completion of the clinic; submit your receipt to me. Lots of great information on coaching youth hockey is available on the USA Hockey website; click on the coaching section at usahockey.com

USA Hockey requires that all coaches be certified by 12/31. After that deadline no uncertified coaches will be allowed on the ice for practices or on the bench for games. NO EXCEPTIONS. Student coaches under the age of 18 are not eligible for certification, but can help out with a team by registering with the USAH Student Coach Program and contacting me for a SW application. The Student Coach Information Form can be downloaded from the USA Hockey website: usahockey.com/coaches – scroll to the bottom. Completed forms must be submitted to me before joining the team for practices.

Again this year all coaches (and players) will be required to register through the USA Hockey website. Go to www.usahockey.com, register as a **coach**, pay the fee, and print the confirmation page. The confirmation page should be put in the Registrar's mailbox at the rink. Any questions regarding registration should go to the Southwest Registrar, Lori Bierman, at s.w.e.registrar.lb@hotmail.com. As with clinic certification fees, the coaches registration fees will be paid by the club. Contact me for reimbursement. Coaches need not register until they have been assigned a position, but must do so to complete the team roster.

Our coaching positions are determined by the Coaches Committee. Since most of our coaches are parents, selections cannot be made until tryouts are complete. When we have multiple, qualified coaches seeking the same position, the committee may conduct interviews to help evaluate the candidates. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors approves the final selections. If you or someone you know would like to coach or help out at Southwest this season give me a call at 798-4784 or e-mail me at jfeely@wahahockey.com.



PRE-SEASON CONDITIONING

Date	Start	End	Age
Sunday	8:00		Mite
9/23/2007	9:10		Squirt
	10:20		Peewee
	11:30		Bantam
Monday	5:15		Mite
	6:25		Squirt
9/24/2007	7:35		Bantams
Tuesday	5:15		Peewee
9/25/2007	6:25		Goalies
	7:35		Bantam
Wednesday	5:15		Mite
9/26/2007	6:25		Squirt
Thursday	5:15		Peewee
10/27/2007	6:30		Coaches
Monday	5:15		Mite
10/1/2007	6:25		Bantam
Tuesday	5:15		Squirt
10/2/2007	6:25		Peewee
	7:35		Goalies
Wednesday	5:15		Mite
10/3/2007	6:25		Squirt
	7:35		Peewee
	8:40		Bantam



SOUTHWEST EAGLES YOUTH HOCKEY

Board of Directors & Age Level Directors

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