



## Northern Plains District PLAYER DEVELOPMENT/IDENTIFICATION CAMP

***SAVE THE DATES - June 1 - 5, 2011***

The 2011 Northern Plains District Development Player/Evaluation Camp will be ***June 1-5, 2011, at the Ralph Engelstad Arena (REA), Grand Forks, North Dakota.*** UND has made the Ralph Engelstad Arena (REA) and all their facilities available to us for this camp. The camp will take full advantage of the main rink, locker room, and off ice training facilities at the REA as well as two additional ices sheets. The UND Fighting Sioux staff will join the district camp staff in offering attendees qualified and professional coaching and evaluation expertise. This is a great opportunity for attending district boys and girls. The REA is one of the finest college hockey facilities in North America.

We expect the 2011 camp staff to be composed of career as well as volunteer coaches. The staff of men and women will represent USA Hockey national programs as well as representatives from NCAA College, ACHA College, USA Junior, Prep School, USA Hockey Tier 1, Sanctioned High Schools, and the top Youth Coaches within the District.

**Introduction:** The 2011 Camp marks the District's 5th year of involvement in district and national player evaluation and development. It is a method of evaluating where our district's top players are relative to each other. It also provides an opportunity to see, in one location, how each states best player(s) compete with and against each other. In addition, the district identifies and sends our top players to national camps. These players will represent the best in our district.

The Northern Plains player pool is the smallest of all 12 districts. However, the district continues to develop and identify some of the top players in respective birth years. The primary objective of this camp is to expose and perhaps offer opportunities to attending players that want to move to a higher level of play. It is our objective to help district players reach their goal and potential. The players will meet, be coached, and evaluated by men and women representing different programs from around the country.

**Administration:** The USA Hockey Youth Council along with the National Player Development Committee administers the USA Hockey National Player Development Program. They set the guidelines and expectations for each District's Player Development Program. , Al Bloomer is the Northern Plains Player Development/Evaluation Camp Director. The Northern Plains District formed a District Player Development Committee. Each affiliate has representatives on this committee. The committee, co-chaired by Gary Splichal and Al Bloomer, administer this camp and over-see all player development activities.

**Why should District players attend?:** With several select, prospect and summer camp opportunities available to our players, We cannot tell you that participation in the District Camp is the only way a player can be recognized, evaluated and promoted - but it is a **very good and proven way**. We understand the demand on player's time. We have tried to select dates that have minimal conflict. However, we must hold the camp early enough to allow the national office to contact national camp selections and make travel arrangements. We prepare the schedule to have minimal impact on school.

The District Camp provides participants an opportunity to:

- Have fun
- Make new friends
- Skate with and against the most skilled players in your birth year
- Be challenged
- Learn and develop individual and team skills
- Be taught and evaluated by career coaches
- Attend off ice informational seminars
- Learn conditioning techniques
- Demonstrate your talent to scouts from inside and outside our District
- Be selected to represent our district at the National Boy's and National Girls/Women's Camps.

**Player Selection to the District Camp:** Prior to the district camp, we will contact the Affiliate Player Development Directors as well as the Affiliate Presidents to notify them of their state's player allocation. ***Each state is given the responsibility to select their best representatives by gender, birth year, and position.*** The District Player Development Committee will recommend a format to each affiliate. We would like each affiliate to be consistent in the process. We recommend that at least one member of the district player development committee attend each affiliate camp. To be eligible a player's family must be a permanent residence in one of the four Northern Plains District states. A player may be registered and participate on an out of district team, but his/her parents or guardian must be Northern Plains District residents. Selections will be made and forwarded to District Camp personnel for team assignments.

There is always concern regarding the allocation and selection process. I urge you to contact your representatives participate in the affiliate process. Each year there are surprises. If you participate in the affiliate process and you can compete at the district Tier 1 level you should be at the district camp. A schedule of Affiliate Selection Camps and the respective contacts will be posted on the district and affiliate web sites.

I hope the above will answer your questions about the Northern Plains District Camp. If not, please feel free to contact Gary Splichal or myself.

Mark your calendars for June 1-5, 2011; we hope to see you in Grand Forks, ND

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