

Ron,

I just finished reading your email and was completely blown away hearing that some of the parents or players don't find the value in the roller hockey practices. I can understand their frustration if they aren't use to skating on roller blades, but to say the players get no benefit from practicing roller hockey is absurd. As it is most of the **QUALITY** programs we play outside of Arizona already get a lot more ice time than we do, and because of the availability of that ice they pay a lot less for it. This is one, if not the main reason most kids in Arizona are at such a disadvantage. We need to take advantage of the roller practices. As it is our coaches are already trying to cram everything from power skating, skill development, power play, systems, chalk talk, and most importantly team building into one or two, and sometimes three hours a week.

## **IT'S ICE TIME PEOPLE !!! WAKE-UP OR BE WILLING TO PAY UP**

### **FOR MORE ICE TIME**

I applaud the organization for thinking outside the box, and finding a way to get these kids more hockey time. Canada is the fastest growing segment of Roller Hockey in North America. Why? It's because when the ice melts it's the best way to stay sharp, continue working on their skill development, and still have fun doing it. And then there is California. They found a way to close the SKILL gap between East & West Coast hockey faster than any other western state. How? Maybe it's because they were playing roller hockey long before Wayne Gretzky ever came to the LA Kings? As a matter of fact he owned many of the roller rinks for years. Now those rinks are owned by the Anaheim Ducks who have embraced the roller game.

Does anyone ever wonder what will happen if the NHL keeps trying to limit the physical part of the ice game? Will the game change? Many people believe it will, and when it does the skilled player who can think on his feet, skate with speed, pass and handle the puck, as well as see the floor will be in big demand. These are all critical attributes that can be enhanced by playing roller hockey, but it's more than just not going to practice. It's about sending the wrong message to our kids. I heard someone say that Shawn Burke of the Coyotes told one of our parents that playing roller hockey as a goalie would not be good for their development. Is not attending a team practice good for a player's development? Players and their parents need to remember its hockey practice and not a night off. It's practice, do it with passion.

At the end of the day, it's about **RESPECT**. Not just for the game of HOCKEY, but for the organization you committed to, the coaches you chose to play for, the teammates you grind it out with at each and every practice, and most importantly yourself. Is this really what we choose to teach our kids by not attending roller practices, or having a bad attitude when they do? My kid is 15 years old, and 5' nothing weighing 99 lbs. How good are his chances at making it to the NHL? Well let me tell you. It's about the same as most all other kids, very slim. This however is not why we support our son's decision to play a game that requires us to spend countless hours on the road, and at the rink. It's because of what we hope he learns from playing the game and doing things the right way.

## **Big Picture? Little Picture? You decide.**

**Here is an email I received from a leading Ice Hockey Scout Regarding Roller Hockey Players.**

**From:** Shayne Arsenault [mailto:sarsenault.f██████████]  
**Sent:** ██████████, 2011 9:33 AM  
**To:** ██████████  
**Subject:** ██████████

I can tell you this....the teams that I have calling for West Coast kids ask first if the player is a roller hockey player as well, as the bulk of talented kids from the West have a roller hockey background and that is what they are looking for as their possession skills are superior to those of strictly ice players simply because of the fact roller hockey is all about puck possession, no dump and chase. If there are two players they call about, and one plays roller and the other does not, teams will opt for the player with roller hockey experience. All of the kids that I have sent to the WHL, USHL, BCHL, NAHL and D-1 colleges have roller hockey backgrounds. ALL OF THEM. The level of competition to move to the next level is so fierce. For an ice player not to play roller just places them in a big group....kids on the West Coast have the unique opportunity to separate themselves from this big group by refining their skills through the addition of roller hockey and you are starting to see the separation at every level's draft.

**Shayne Arsenault**  
CMG Sports  
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**Here is a list of a few of the local ice players who started out playing roller hockey. Many of these players still play during the summer. I'll start with the goalies since there seems to be some question of whether roller hockey has a negative effect on a goalies development. All of these athletes are playing at the highest level for their age group.**

### **Goalies:**

\*Kyle Zimmerli Birth Year 1998 – Current team CAHA 98 AAA Super Series

\*Arron Giddings Birth Year 1997- Current team DYHA 97 AA

\*Anthony Ciurro Birth Year 1996 – Current team Mission U16 AAA

\*Logan Rader Birth Year 1995 – Current team Mission U18 AAA

\*Andrew Barletta Birth Year 1991 – Polar Bears Junior A

\*All came from the same roller program coached by current Runners Head Coach Dan Maxwell.

### **Forwards/Defensmen**

Nicolas Coppola Birth Year 2001 – CAHA 2001 AAA Super Series

Jeremy Masella Birth Year 1999 – CAHA 1999 AAA Super Series

Ben Jackson Birth Year 1997 – Bobcats 1997 AAA NAPHL

Alex McDonald Birth Year 1997 – Bobcats 1997 AAA NAPHL

Hanna Kiraly Birth Year 1997 – North American Hockey Academy (USA Hockey RMD Camp Selection)

Robbie Goldsmith Birth Year 1996 – Union 1996 AAA, Mission U16 AAA

Bohdi Bilanghia Birth Year 1996 – CAHA U15 AAA Super Series

Daniel Diaz Birth Year 1996 – AZ Runners U16 AA (USA Hockey RMD Camp Selection)

Stetson Dirks Birth Year 1995 – CAHA U16 AAA Tier-1 Elite

Danny Kiraly Birth Year 1995- CAHA U16 AAA Tier-1 Elite, (USA Hockey RMD & National Camp Selection)

Adam Kleven Birth Year 1995 – CAHA U16 AAA Tier-1 Elite

**The number of players choosing to make the switch or to play both in Arizona from Roller to Ice may be small, but those who did have had tremendous success in a very short time.**

Here are some past clips from the NArch (North American Roller Hockey Championships) website of players in the NHL who started out in Roller Hockey. This however is only a few of the many players who are playing ice at a high level. There are many, many more playing at the lower levels. Take a look at some of those players at the link below.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ypa3H-WUXn0>

NARCh Player, David Booth, was playing for the Panthers.

NHL Debut, TJ Hensick. TJ is playing for the Avs and scored his first goal on a partial breakaway the other night. TJ and David actually played on the Honeybaked Teams that dominated through their age groups a few years back.

Brad Boyes, who played with the Mississauga Rattlers growing up, is tearing it up for the St. Louis Blues.

Paul Stastny. Paul played roller growing up in St. Louis and most recently played on the TMD Teams in 05. Paul is leading the Avs with 31 points! The next closest is Sakic with 22.

Rocco Grimaldi, won the NHL Junior All-Star Sweepstakes and gets a trip to the All-Star weekend for free, courtesy of the NHL via NARCh. Rocco has moved to Michigan to chase his ice dreams. He absolutely dominated the roller scene in So Cal, always playing against kids twice his size. I haven't seen Rocco play for a while since I didn't attend the first Detroit Regional last year, but it's probably safe to say that he has a legitimate shot to play in the NHL. He'll be watching NHL All-Stars that he has something in common with, they all played years of roller hockey, or inline hockey as some of you prefer to call it.

Brett Sterling (just called up for Pens)

Lee Sweatt (just called up for Vancouver and broke his ankle).

Paul Szczechura played over 80 games with Lightning last 2 yrs.

British Columbia '92 player BRETT BULMER making his NHL debut today for the Minnesota Wild.

Ryan Kesler

Sam Gagner

Joel Ward

Bobby Ryan



Pat Maroon



Pat Maroon



You decide.

Ruben Diaz